Results Of The Ring Readers' Poll ...

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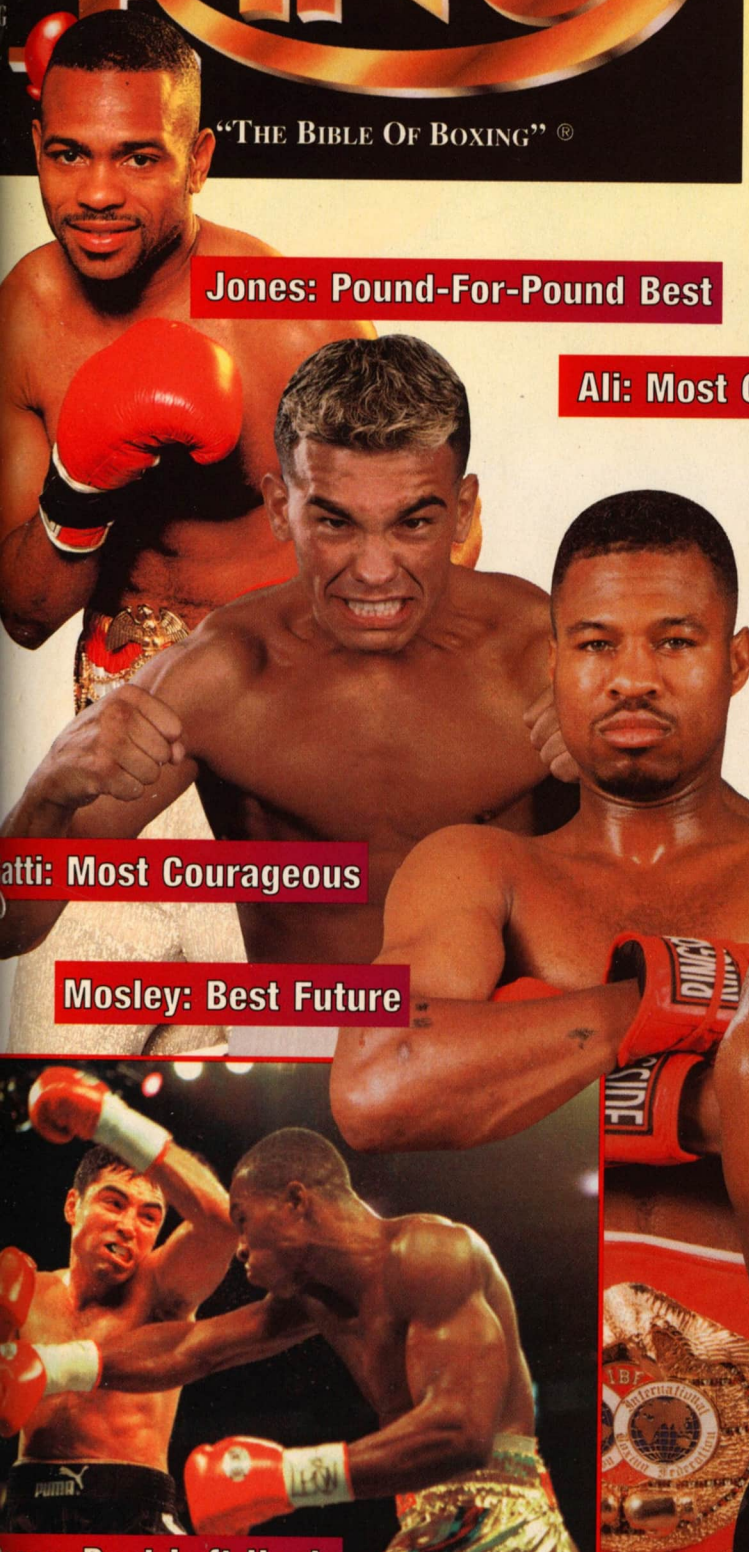
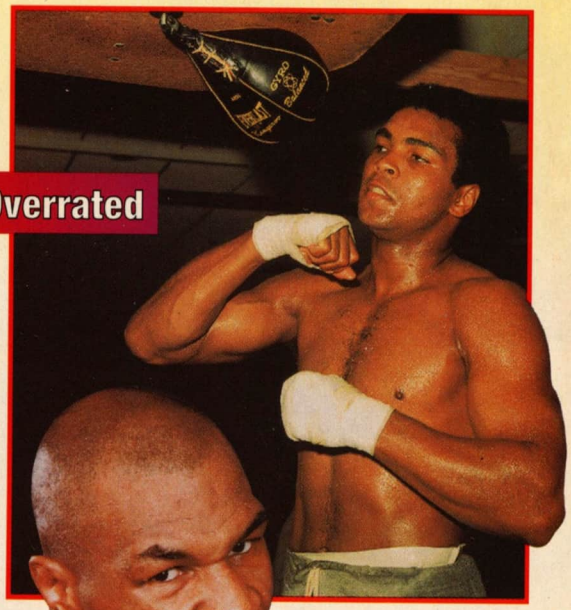


Jones: Pound-For-Pound Best



Ali: Most Overrated

atti: Most Courageous

Mosley: Best Future

Tyson: Hardest Puncher

scar: Best Left Hook

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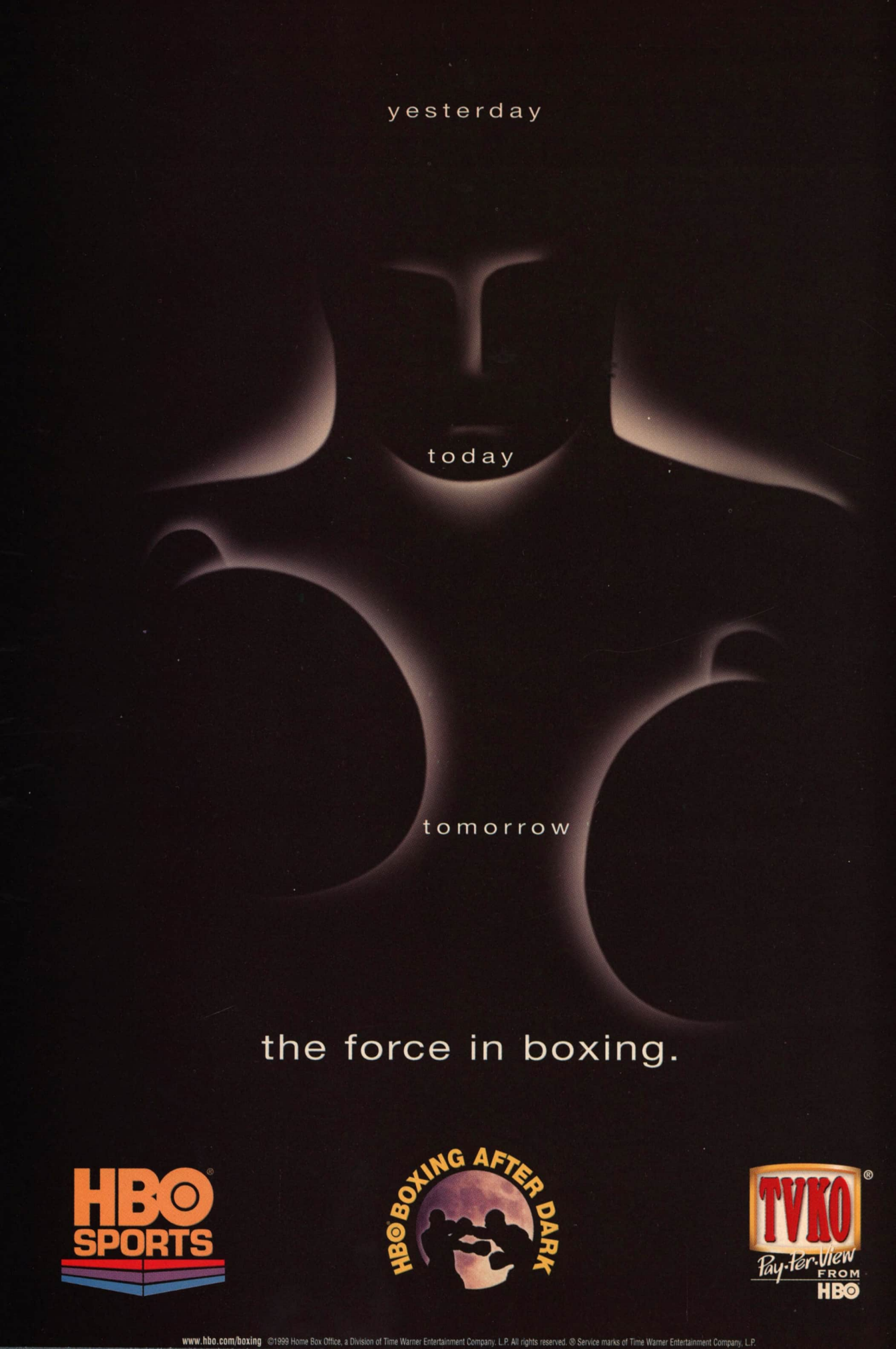

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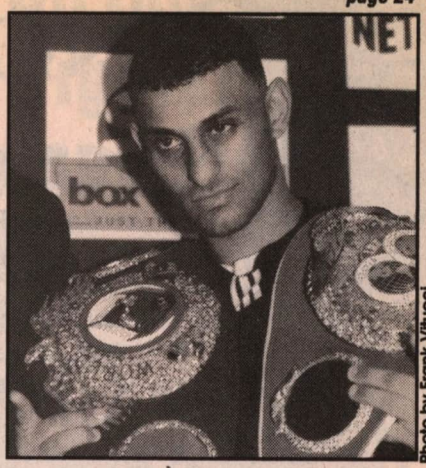

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RINGSIDE

Regardless of who you thought won the Oscar De La Hoya-Ike Quartey fight, you have to give "The Golden Boy" his due. And if you don't think he proved something against the man they call "Bazooka," you weren't paying very close attention. Either that, or you're so blinded by personal prejudice, you can't see what's in front of your eyes.

Even the most ardent Oscar-haters have to admit that Quartey was a genuinely tough opponent, an unbeaten power-puncher who came with none of the supposed baggage critics hung on De La Hoya's previous victims. Forget that Quartey hadn't fought in 16 months. Going in, Ike said rust wouldn't be a factor, and he was right.

Sure, Oscar's a pretty boy, but that didn't stop him from picking himself up off the canvas in the sixth round or battling through a badly swollen eye. So what if he moved out of the barrio and now lives in a ritzy neighborhood befitting his tax bracket? That didn't stop him from letting it all hang out in the 12th round. Whether the anti-De La Hoya faction wants to acknowledge it or not, the WBC welterweight champion showed courage, determination, and the willingness to slug it out toe-to-toe with one of the most dangerous fighters in the division.

I understand why De La Hoya's persona might rub some people the wrong way; I used to feel the same way about Sugar Ray Leonard. But covering Leonard's career taught me an important lesson, and that was not to allow the superficial stuff to influence my judgment of a man's fighting abilities. So even if you loathe Oscar from the top of his designer haircut to the bottom of his low-cut boxing boots, don't get let the image fool you. This guy is a helluva fighter, and the Quartey bout was the latest, and to date, most emphatic confirmation of that fact.

***

Belated kudos to Richard Steele for the way he handled the messy situation at the end of first round of the Mike Tyson-Frans Botha fight. The veteran referee has taken his share of criticism, and thanks to his questionable handling of the Julio Cesar Chavez-Meldrick Taylor thriller and the first Mike Tyson-Razor Ruddock fight, he's become the ref fans love to boo every time he's introduced. But not only did Steele remain calm when Tyson and Botha continued to brawl after the bell, he twice told Tyson, "You can't win on a foul." That was a savvy way to phrase his admonishment, reminding Tyson not only what had happened the last time he'd given in to his animalistic instincts, but also what was really important.

Nice job, Richard. If a fighter is only as good as his last fight, maybe we should apply a similar standard to referees, and forgive Steele his past sins.

And while on the subject of good refereeing, I though Mitch Halpern did a fine job overseeing the De La Hoya-Quartey match. What really impressed me was the way he stayed cool during De La Hoya's 12th-round barrage. After the way Florida referee Telis Assimenios botched the David Tua-Hasim Rahman ending, it was reassuring to see a third man who knew what the hell he was doing. I had my doubts about Halpern after he withdrew from the second Evander Holyfield-Tyson fight because Tyson's co-managers created a stink. But in retrospect, Halpern probably did the smart thing. He has the makings of a great referee, something that's just as rare as a truly great fighter.

Nigel Collins
Editor-in-Chief

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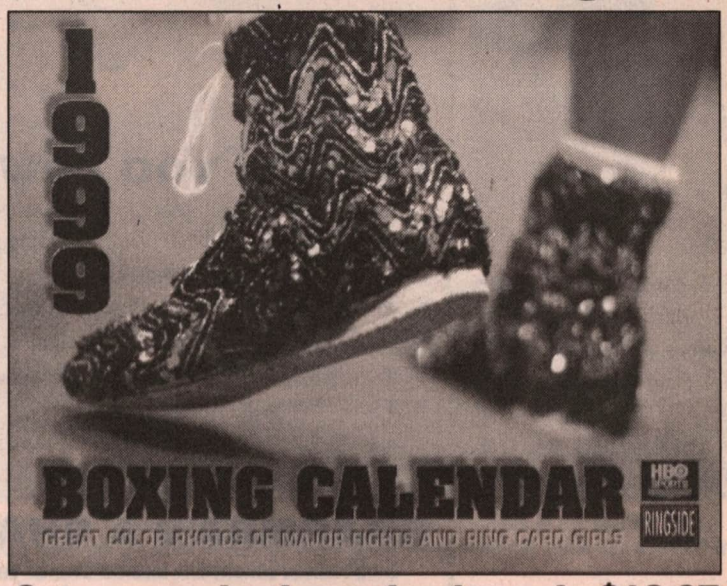

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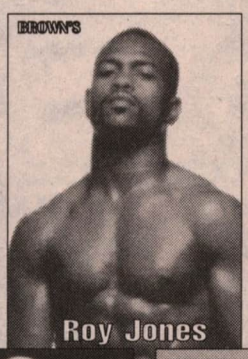

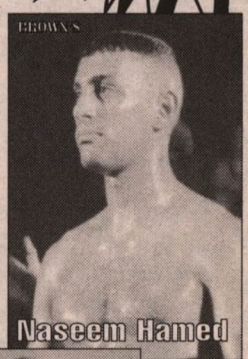

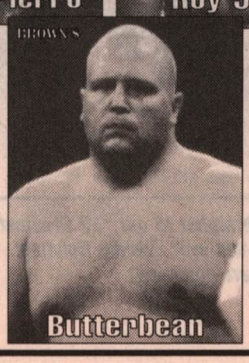

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COME OUT WRITING

We welcome your letters, which may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Send your comments to Come Out Writing, The Ring, P.O. Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

LENNOX TOO LOW

How can you justify placing Lennox Lewis as low as 32 in your "50 Greatest Heavyweights Of All-Time" (Holiday 1998)? With an avenged loss being his only blemish, he's beaten everyone that's been put in front of him. He's a clean professional who's always being avoided by so-called better fighters, like Riddick Bowe, the man you placed at number 23. Boxing politics has been Lennox's problem all along. The question is: What happens when he beats your number-three man, Evander Holyfield? Surely then you would accept that not all the best big men are American, which your first 18 choices would suggest.

PAUL WILLIAMS
North Lincolnshire, England

SHARMBA'S A SHAM

So Sharmba Mitchell is number two in your junior welterweight ratings? Would this in any way be based on his victory over Khalid Rahilou, whose only claim to fame is a victory over a shot Frankie Randall? This is absurd, and I urge you to consider that there are boxing fans like me who look at events with intelligence greater than that of a ferret. Need I bring up the name Leavander Johnson, the lightweight contender who stopped Mitchell in the eighth round in 1994? Let us not illegitimately rank shopworn contenders with potent promoters, who are luckily placed into a title shot against an unworthy champion.

SCOTT LEVINSON
Vista, CA

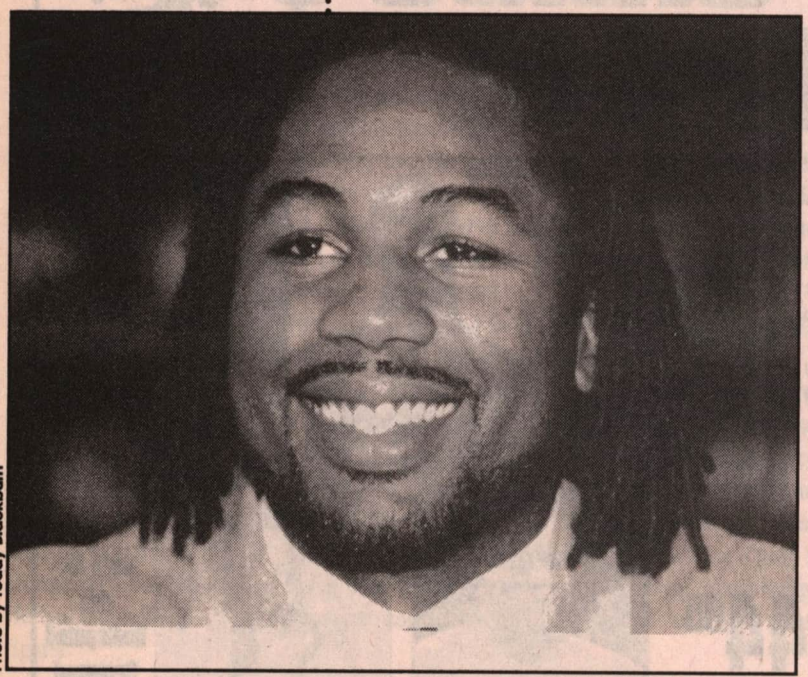


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Lennox Lewis should have been ranked much higher in our "50 Greatest Heavyweights" section, according to reader Paul Williams. A win over Evander Holyfield, Williams writes, would prove that not all the best heavyweights are American.

WILD ABOUT "WINDMILL"

Thanks for the article on former light heavyweight Ray "Windmill" White (January 1999). I wanted to share with your readers a story I have about him.

I took up boxing in the early-1970s at the age of 15. Walking into Indian Joe's Gym on Main Street in Ventura, California, I felt timid and out of place. I looked around the gym and recognized Ray. I approached him and told him I was a fan of his and had watched many of his fights on TV. He had me get on workout clothes, and when I returned, we got into the ring, and he worked with me on my stance, movement, and jab. What a great guy! That was nearly 30 years ago, and I still remember how impressed I was to have a celebrity work with me. Thanks again for your article, and, thank you, Ray.

JOHN HOWARD
Port Hueneme, CA

MISHANDLED AND MANHANDLED

Every so often, media pundits expound about Mike Tyson being washed-up and unfit to ever enter the ring and "bite" again. Let me say that the bark of these pundits is worse than Tyson's bite. The truth is that Tyson's handlers mishandled him and used him to do what they do best—make money. Instead of nurturing him into contention over time and carefully planning fights, they set him up with stiffs, created a scenario full of hype and deception, and then shoved him into the ring with Holyfield—not once, but twice—allowing his fans to witness one of the greatest pugilists baked in ring rust, totally unprepared, his timing and rhythm off, being humiliated before the eyes of the boxing world.

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

The return of Mike Tyson (pictured against Frans Botha) has made a couple of our readers happy. Dave Mahon feels Tyson never got a chance to develop under his previous handlers, while Ron Schilreff is glad to see Tyson back so Iron Mike can get his block knocked off.

The decision of the Nevada State Athletic Commission to reinstate Tyson is sure to inject some fighting spirit into a somewhat lackluster heavyweight division seeking to reinvent itself. "Iron Mike" is still capable of greatness at what he does best and, with a year of meaningful fights under his belt and under the management and tutelage of Shelly Finkel and Tommy Brooks, it's highly likely that Tyson, if he is allowed to strike while the iron is hot, will avenge his precipitated losses to Holyfield.

Cus D'Amato, on the other side, must have cringed after what had transpired. Indeed, Tyson's biting Holyfield was wrong. Why he did it, however, stemmed from his state of frustration and confusion having been pushed too fast, and even then, Holyfield had to resort repeatedly to the use of headbutts in order to fend off Iron Mike in a much closer rematch. I suppose Holyfield must have gotten the okay to do so through a message from above. Not realizing that he had been duped, used, and abused, but aware that something was not right, Tyson, very alone in the ring, resorted to what he knew best: surviving like an animal on the streets against unfair odds.

DAVE MAHON
Miami, FL

TYSON'S TIME IS UP

This is in response to Jason Iron Hawk's "Long Live Tyson" letter in your February 1999 issue. Mike Tyson didn't bring back the sport of boxing from extinction, but he has brought excitement—the excitement one gets from hoping a spoiled, self-centered, non-educated hoodlum gets his block knocked off! Sure, he once was the undisputed, undefeated heavyweight champion of the world, but who did he fight? He fought in a weight class that had very little talent at that time. Trevor Berbick, Bonecrusher Smith, Tony Tucker—where are they now? Tyson beat a couple of has-beens, and a couple more never-will-bes.

Tyson will never be an Ali, Marciano, or Foreman. Marciano never lost—period. As for Ali and Foreman, neither one has ever said or done anything to disgrace the sport of boxing, or used excuses when things didn't go their way! And after his so-called comeback, why did Tyson give up the WBC title? Because he was scared to fight Lennox Lewis, that's why.

Nobody was a bigger Tyson fan than I was. I have seen every Tyson fight and every single pay-per-view there was to buy—but never again. Tyson is a no-class biter—oops, I mean fighter. And when all is said and done, Mike will be known as just another has-been bum from the ghetto! He should have stuck with Bill Cayton!

RON SCHILREFF
Blythe, CA

JUDGES SOLD THEIR SEOUL

Thanks a lot, Salt Lake City! Several members of the International Olympic Committee recently resigned there under a cloud of controversy, supporting my theory that there is Olympic corruption. And I believe that that exposed only a fraction of the corruption. Let's investigate Seoul, 1988. How about finally handing Roy Jones an Olympic gold medal. I haven't even watched Olympic boxing since that black day in Seoul. I said "payoff" then, and I'm saying it now. Jones won every second of every round. How much did South Korea pay the judges? Roy deserves a gold medal.

ROBERT RODRIGUEZ
Ely, NY■

ROUND ONE

A SMASHING RETURN TO PRISON

It doesn't take much to make Mike Tyson snap. In fact, the two-time former heavyweight champ snaps so often, those rare moments where he shows poise and restraint ought to be referred to as "snapping" out of his normally volatile state. Accidentally headbutt him in the ring, he'll snap. Cause a minor fender bender with him, he'll snap. Ask him a question he doesn't like, he'll snap. And tell him his TV time is up, or that he has to get off the phone—two different versions of the story have been passed around—and he'll snap.

But for all those unconditional Tyson supporters who find an excuse for every inexcusable course of action Iron Mike follows, this latest outburst may really not just be Tyson's fault. Paul Kemp, a Tyson attorney, insisted that the fighter's February 19 temper tantrum and smashing of a prison recreational room television set were the result of Tyson suddenly being taken off his antidepressant medication, Zoloft.

"The jail did not cut him off of medication," Montgomery County (Maryland) Correctional Center spokesman Eric Seleznow said the week after the incident. "He was offered it all times."

Except at those times when he wasn't offered it. Kemp insisted the jail psychiatrist terminated Tyson's use of Zoloft for two days because the ex-champ refused to consult with him. Tyson was already "spiraling down into a depression," according to Kemp, and it was hoped that the withheld Zoloft excuse would pardon Tyson's behavior. Initially, it didn't. In a prison disciplinary hearing on February 24, Tyson was found guilty of disorderly conduct, destruction of property, and assault on correctional officers; the last charge was the result of pieces of the TV striking officers on the other side of the prison bars. He was ordered to do 20 more days in solitary confinement (in addition to the five he had already served between the incident and the hearing), with no television privileges, phone privileges, canteen services, or visitors other than his lawyers and psychiatrist. Two days later, though, Team Tyson successfully appealed the sentence, insisting it was the jail's fault Tyson didn't get his medication, and Iron Mike was immediately released from solitary.

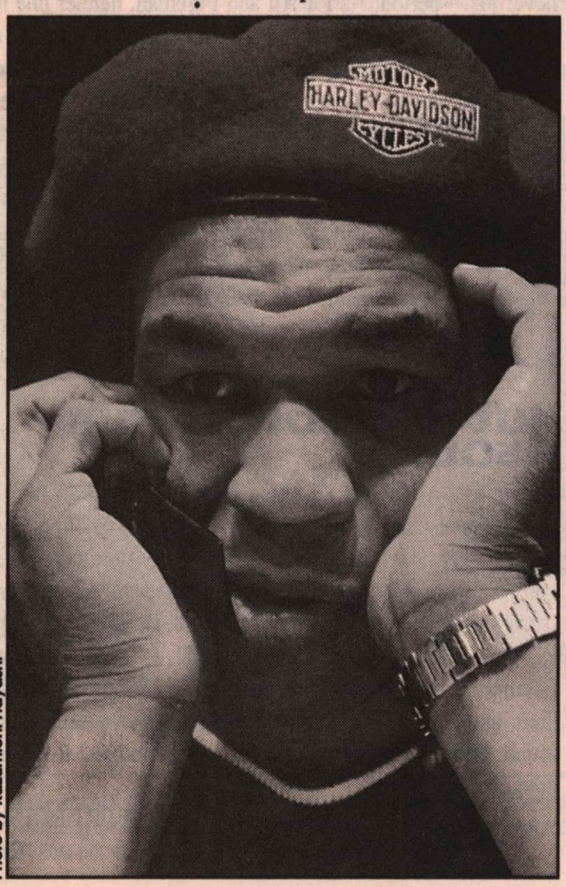


Photo by Kazumichi Hayashi

Tyson has his phone privileges back

What it all adds up to, despite the successful appeal, is a significantly increased likelihood that Tyson won't be seeing a whole lot of time off for good behavior. It was possible that Tyson could have been out training for a return to the ring on a work-release program by early-April, and that he could have been done entirely with his sentence for assaulting two men on a Maryland highway by August. Now it's a don't-hold-your-breath kind of thing. Add in the fact that the state of Indiana has tacked on an additional two months for probation violation, and it's looking more and more likely that Tyson's latest comeback will be on hold for some time to come.

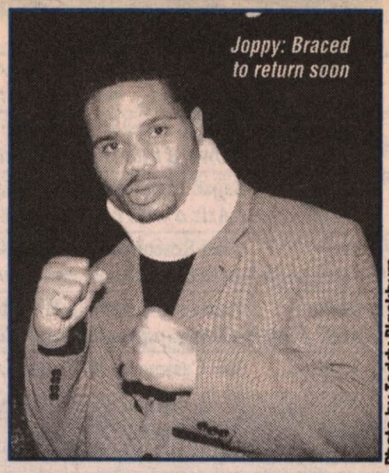
—Eric Raskin

ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

William Joppy feels fortunate to be alive, surviving what was perhaps the most traumatic moment of his life. In retrospect, Joppy says the events that occurred on January 18 are more a blessing than anything else. That afternoon, the WBA middleweight champ had just completed a workout at Round One Gym when his van was broadsided by a car and ripped in half. The next thing Joppy knew, he was on a stretcher at Prince George's Medical Center, where he was treated for facial lacerations and a hairline fracture in his neck. He had been preparing for a February 6 title defense against Darren Obah of Australia when the accident occurred.

That fight card at the Washington Convention Center was supposed to be a middleweight extravaganza, and a homecoming for Joppy, who hails from nearby Silver Spring, Maryland. The card also featured IBF champion Bernard Hopkins' rematch with Robert Allen, with former WBC champ Keith Holmes scheduled to challenge the man who took the belt from him last May, Hassine Cherifi. What was supposed to be a great fight card turned into fodder, as Joppy was unable to compete due to the accident, and Cherifi pulled out claiming he injured his back in training.

Joppy, however, still attended the show wearing a neck brace and an inch-long scar on his forehead. Joppy, 26-1-1 (20), who last fought on August 28 of last year when he stopped Roberto Duran, said he was hoping to step back in the ring by April. But whether or not he would box again was the farthest thing from Joppy's mind while he was laying dazed in his vehicle after the impact. He was just happy he was alive.



Joppy: Braced to return soon

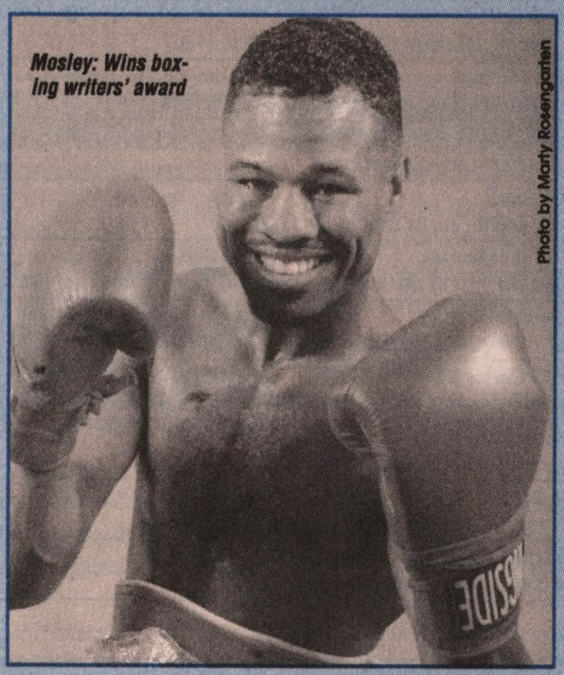
Photo by Teddy Blackburn

"I was thankful the Lord let me live," recalled the 28-year-old Joppy. "It could have been worse. A friend of my father's was in an accident like that and was paralyzed from the neck down. I'm not going to lie, it's been very frustrating. But I've been a person on the go my whole life. God did this to slow me down. I have to take heed. I think the accident has humbled me. I've always been an impatient person; I think this will teach me patience. I'm able to ride a stationary bike, and I'll be back soon. When I come back, I'm going to be more destructive than ever."

—Joe Santoliquito

SHANE-SATIONAL

There was ample room for debate over who deserved the Fighter of the Year award for 1998. Did you like the guy who made five sterling title defenses, all ending in knockouts, but none coming against marquee opponents? Or did you side with the fighter who had only two title fights, but also was phenomenal in both of them, and faced marquee opponents both times? It was Shane Mosley's prolific dominance vs. Floyd Mayweather's disposal of the two best fighters in his division. THE RING went with Mayweather. But Mosley's great '98 didn't go unrecognized, as the Boxing Writers Association of America (BWAA) voted for the IBF lightweight champ as the recipient of the Edward J. Neil Award for Fighter of the Year.



Mosley: Wins boxing writers' award

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

Seven other awards were scheduled to be presented at the April 9 awards dinner at the Marriott Marquis in New York: the James J. Walker Award for Long and Meritorious Service to Steve Acunto of the American Association for the Improvement of Boxing; the John F.X. Condon Award for Trainer of the Year to Jack Mosley, who trains his son, Sugar Shane; the Al Buck award for Manager of the Year to Floyd Mayweather Sr., who guides his son, Floyd Jr.; the Nat Fleischer Memorial Award for Excellence in Boxing Journalism to Bernard Fernandez; the Marvin Kohn "Good Guy" award to Patti Dreifus; the A.J. Liebling Award for Outstanding Boxing Writing to Thom Greer and Bill Gallo; and the Sam Taub Award for Excellence in Broadcast Journalism to Col. Bob Sheridan. Congratulations to all.

—Eric Raskin

TV FIGHTS OF THE MONTH

DATE	WINNER/LOSER	NETWORK	DIVISION	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
1-25-99	Rodney Jones W 10 Jamie Lerma	FOXSN	jm	C+	B	C-
Easy win for Jones, but Lerma takes first place in the Joe Hipp look-alike contest						
1-25-99	Agapito Sanchez KO 8 Jorge Munoz	FOXSN	jf	B	C	C
Sanchez inches toward title shot with bludgeoning of overmatched Munoz						
1-29-99	Sajjad Abdul-Aziz KO 3 Don Diego Poeder	ESPN2	c	C+	A-	B
Hard-punching Aziz a wild card in game's worst division						
1-29-99	Dana Rosenblatt W 10 Sam Calderon	ESPN2	sm	C+	D-	D
Rosenblatt's had nearly 40 bouts now, and we still don't know if he can fight						
1-29-99	**Francisco Castillejo W 12 Keith Mullings**	**ESPN2**	**WBC jm**	**A**	**C+**	**B**
Upset! Flat Mullings outhustled over distance by quick-handed Spaniard						
1-30-99	Joel Casamayor W 12 Jose Luis Noyola	Uni	jl	B-	A	C+
Casamayor wins in battle of prospects; continues to impress						
1-30-99	Andrew Golota W 10 Jesse Ferguson	HBO	h	C+	C-	C
It wasn't exciting, but Golota shows he can box when he feels like it						
1-30-99	Michael Grant KO 10 Ahmad Abdin	HBO	h	B+	C+	C+
It's time to see if Grant really is the division's future; this didn't do it						
2-4-99	Oleg Maskaev KO 3 Jeff Wooden	USSB	h	C-	B+	C-
Once-useful Wooden becoming fodder; Maskaev nothing special						
2-5-99	Reggie Green KO 3 Jesus Rodriguez	ESPN2	jw	B-	C+	B
Spectacular one-punch kayo for smooth-boxing Green						
2-5-99	Andrew Council W 10 Michael Ward	ESPN2	m	C+	A-	C+
Workman-like victory for Council in tough middleweight grudge match						
2-6-99	**Sharmba Mitchell W 12 Pedro Saiz**	**Show**	**WBA jw**	**B+**	**C-**	**C+**
Saiz tougher than advertised, but Mitchell should have done more						
2-6-99	**Bernard Hopkins KO 7 Robert Allen**	**Show**	**IBF m**	**A**	**A**	**C**
Who knew Allen was such a dog? Hopkins still world's best 160-pounder						
2-8-99	Antonio Ramirez W 10 Aaron Zarate	FOXSN	jl	C+	B	C+
Solid win for Ramirez; Zarate comes on late but runs out of time						
2-8-99	Javier Jauregui W 12 Jose Badillo	FOXSN	jl	C	A-	B
Badillo gets short end of stick after flooring Jauregui early and outboxing him						
2-12-99	Antonio Diaz KO 2 Mauro Lucero	ESPN2	jw	B+	A-	B
Watch out for young Diaz; Lucero, coming off close title loss, gets destroyed						
2-12-99	Bronco McKart KO 8 Rene Herrera	ESPN2	jm	C-	C	C+
Boy, signing on with Sugar Ray Leonard has done wonders for McKart's career						
2-13-99	Erik Morales KO 2 Angel Chacon	PPV	WBC jf	A-	D	C
No truth to the rumor that Chacon is a part-time contortionist						
2-13-99	Oba Carr W 10 Frankie Randall	PPV	w	A	B	C+
Carr passes final test over ringworn Randall, earns shot at De La Hoya						
2-13-99	**Oscar De La Hoya W 12 Ike Quartey**	**PPV**	**WBC w**	**A+**	**A+**	**B**
Great sixth and 12th rounds, ho-hum the rest of the way; we expected more from these two						
2-17-99	Junior Jones W 12 Tom Johnson	TNT	jl	C+	B+	B
Good, tough scrap between two past-their-prime professionals						
2-17-99	**Floyd Mayweather W 12 Carlos Rios**	**TNT**	**WBC jl**	**A-**	**B-**	**B**
If Shane Mosley can stay at lightweight another year, he and Floyd will make history together						
2-19-99	Joe Hughes W 10 Jim Crawford	ESPN2	lh	C	A-	C
Hughes outfought the entire way; quintessential hometown decision						
2-19-99	David Telesco W 10 Bo James	ESPN2	lh	C+	C	C
This is the guy screaming for Roy Jones? We're not sure he'd beat Rick Frazier						
2-20-99	**Felix Trinidad W 12 Pernell Whitaker**	**HBO**	**IBF w**	**A+**	**A-**	**B+**
Tito too young, fast, and strong for Sweet Pea; bring on De La Hoya!						

Category Explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' futures; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.

(World title fights in **bold** type)

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight

Network key: PPV—Pay-Per-View; Show—Showtime; FOXSN–Fox SportsNet; Uni–Univision

THE GREATEST WHEATIES BOX OF ALL-TIME

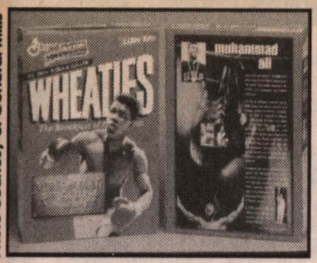


Photo courtesy of General Mills

Finally, Ali graces the cereal box

General Mills, the folks who manufacture Wheaties, "The Breakfast Of Champions," has finally decided that Muhammad Ali is worthy of having his face on its cereal box, even if the distinction does come more than 18 years after "The Greatest's" last fight.

"Muhammad Ali is quite possibly the most recognized sports figure of our time," said Wheaties Marketing Manager Jim Murphy. "That's why we are especially proud to recognize him on our box during our 75th anniversary celebration."

Okay, if that's the way they feel, what took them so long?

"It was a long time coming," agreed Ali's wife, Lonnie. "But at the height of his career, he might have been a little too controversial."

Actually, boxers have never rated too highly with the brass at General Mills, regardless of their politics. Although hundreds of athletes, representing many different sports, have graced the cereal box, Ali is the *first* boxer. Ever!

Still, if Ali, who appeared at a news conference unveiling the new box, doesn't harbor a grudge, we don't either. Heck, at the rate General Mills is going, we can probably count on seeing Evander Holyfield on the Wheaties box sometime around 2075.

—Nigel Collins

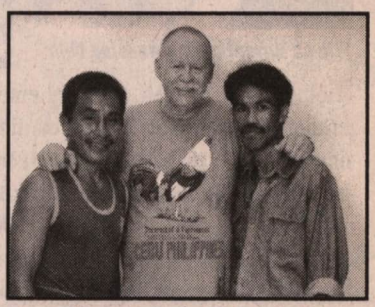
GOLD FOR AN OLDIE?

He's not doing it for the money. In fact, in order for him to do it, they're going to have to overlook the fact that he ever did it for the money.

Bernabe "Billy" Villacampo, who held the WBA flyweight title from 1969-'70, wants to make a return to the ring at the age of 55 after spending more than 20 years in retirement. But it's not the professional game he's trying to get back into; Villacampo wants to represent his native Philippines in the 2000 Olympics in Sydney, Australia, and become the oldest man ever to fight in an Olympiad.

"I think I can take on anybody inside three to five rounds," said Villacampo, a father of three and grandfather of five. "I have always managed to keep myself fit; I don't smoke or drink liquor."

But Villacampo, 39-21-4 (26), who still appears in good shape despite having last fought in 1976, faces a roadblock on his path to Olympic glory that may be more difficult to overcome than age or ring rust.



Villacampo (left) with Nelson and cousin Eric Chavez

"Since he's a former pro, I'm not sure if he'll be allowed to play," noted Villacampo's brother-in-law and adviser, Scott Nelson. "But I think he should be given a chance considering that they allowed an all NBA team to compete. If they allowed an NBA team to play, which was obviously an overkill, then why not give a 55-year-old grandfather a try?"

It should be noted that Villacampo will actually be 57 by the time the Games in Sydney roll around.

—Eric Raskin

THE GUYS TYSON REALLY KICKED IN THE GROIN

Tyson, with two more men his actions hurt, Tommy Brooks and Shelly Finkel

If Mike Tyson does end up doing extended hard time again, it obviously throws not just a wrench, but a whole toolbox, in his latest comeback. But besides Tyson himself, who does his return to jail screw the most? Here are the top five indirect victims of Tyson's road rage:

1. Jay Larkin/Showtime: Larkin, the executive producer of Showtime Championship Boxing, reportedly convinced the network's brass to advance Tyson $33-million so he could hold on to some of his properties while trying to pay off the IRS. True, Showtime can also go after Tyson's property, but they will have to get in line—and the IRS always gets its share first.

2. Tommy Brooks: Tyson's new trainer gave up handsomely paying jobs in the corners of Evander Holyfield and Michael Grant in order to work with Iron Mike. And all he has to show for it when looking for future employment is one lousy showing where it was clear that whatever he tried to teach didn't stick.

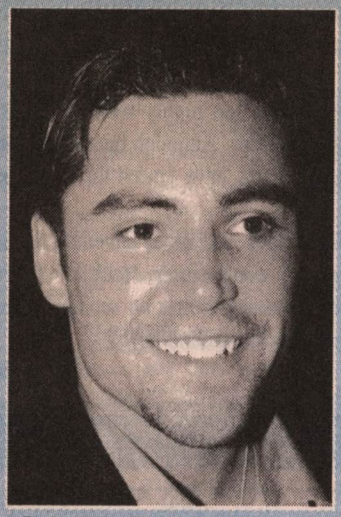
3. America Presents: Promoters Dan Goossen and Mat Tinley were counting on Tyson making the Denver-based company one of the big boys, alongside Don King, Top Rank, and Main Events. Now it's back to America Presents' fortunes resting on the droopy eyelid of David Reid.

4. Andrew Golota: "The Foul Pole" appeared to be in pretty solid position to face Tyson in his third comeback bout sometime over the summer, make a heck of a lot of money, and have a strong chance of winning the mega-high profile fight. Instead, it looks like Golota may be taking a much smaller payday for a much tougher fight against the 6'7", 250-pound Grant.

5. Evander Holyfield: No, Holyfield doesn't really need a third fight with Tyson to convince anybody of his place in history. But he wouldn't have minded a possible $50-million payday to go out on.

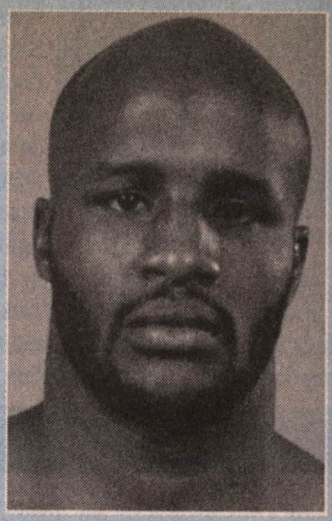
—Eric Raskin

OUTSIDE THE ROPES



De La Hoya: Hearing wedding bells

If you listen closely, you can hear the sound of a million little hearts breaking. Boxing's number-one sex symbol, **Oscar De La Hoya**, announced in January that he is engaged. The lucky lady is *Pacific Blue* star **Shanna Moakley**, who happens to be pregnant with De La Hoya's child, due in June. De La Hoya, who also has a one-year-old son named **Jacob** from another woman, has been busy outside the ring in other ways as well, recently entering into a promotional partnership with **Bob Arum**, earning recording offers after singing a Mexican ballad on the Hispanic talk show *Christina*, and standing up in support of a boxers' union. There's also a new Oscar bio out entitled *Golden Boy*. Look for a review in the next issue of THE RING ... Former heavyweight champ **Michael Moorer** got himself into trouble in the early morning hours of January 24 when his actions resulted in charges of drunken driving and evading arrest. Moorer was visiting with his brother and some friends in Rutherford County, Tennessee, when he reportedly became upset while at a bar and drove off on his own. Moorer struck a guardrail with his 1997 Mercedes-Benz, and when Deputy **Brian Guthrie** tried to talk to the fighter, he drove away. The pursuit ended when Moorer crashed his car into a ditch, and Guthrie had to pull his gun on Moorer before two of the ex-champ's friends convinced him to surrender ... **Naseem Hamed's** former promoter, **Frank Warren**, announced in late-January that he would be suing "The Prince" for libel as a response to comments the featherweight made on a British talk show. When asked on the show whether he felt he had been exploited by Warren, Hamed said, "Definitely yes" ... Recently dethroned WBC bantam champ **Joichiro Tatsuyoshi** underwent successful optical surgery in Osaka, Japan, in mid-January after suffering a brutal kayo loss to **Veerapol Sahaprom** a couple of weeks earlier. Tatsuyoshi, 29, denied rumors that he intended to retire, indicating that he hoped for an opportunity to regain the title upon his recovery.



Moorer: Wild behind the wheel

THE PUNCHLINES

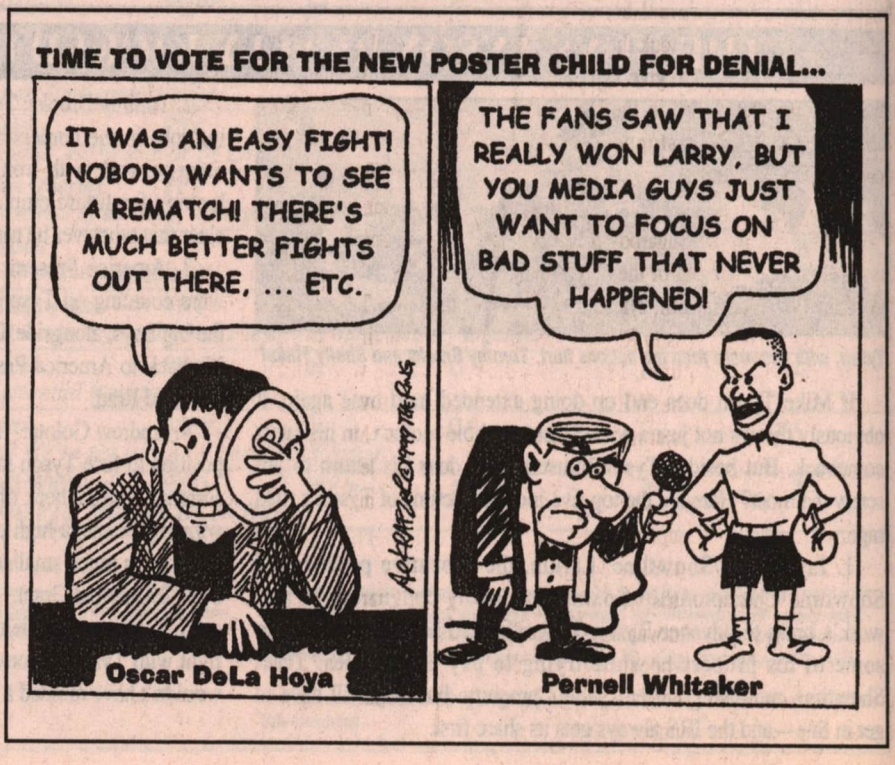
"I might be one of the safest boxers in boxing. I don't spend a dime. I don't leave tips, either—so don't eat with me."

—Bernard Hopkins, speaking at a hearing of the National Association of Attorneys General Boxing Task Force

"You can't blame somebody for something that is *so* common."

—Evander Holyfield, defending President Clinton's promiscuity in an interview with *GQ*

AL KRATZER'S VIEW



The RING "THE BIBLE OF BOXING"

RATINGS ANALYSIS

(For period ended February 23, 1999)

POUND-FOR-POUND

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA** Welterweight
2. **ROY JONES** Light Heavyweight
3. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** Heavyweight
4. **FELIX TRINIDAD** Welterweight
5. **MARK JOHNSON** Junior Bantamweight
6. **SHANE MOSLEY** Lightweight
7. **RICARDO LOPEZ** Strawweight
8. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER** Junior Lightweight
9. **NASEEM HAMED** Featherweight
10. **JOHNNY TAPIA** Bantamweight

HEAVYWEIGHTS: No changes until after the Evander Holyfield-Lennox Lewis unification bout.

CRUISERWEIGHTS: The rematch between WBC champ Juan Carlos Gomez and Marcelo Dominguez was postponed. Therefore, the rankings remain the same as last month.

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS: David Telesco, number 10 last month, exits due to his lackluster performance against blown-up middleweight Bo James, who took the bout on short notice and still managed to give Telesco a tough time. Telesco is replaced in the 10th spot by Derrick Harmon, who stopped previously unbeaten Gilberto Brown.

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Veterans Vincenzo Nardiello and Sugarboy Malinga continue to shuffle in and out of the bottom half of the rankings. This month, Nardiello is out, thanks to his knockout loss to Richie Woodhall, who remains number three. Malinga, from whom Woodhall won the WBC belt, didn't retire after all, and returns at number 10 after a couple of comeback wins.

MIDDLEWEIGHTS: Top-rated Bernard Hopkins underlined his superiority with a seventh-round kayo of Robert Allen, who falls from seventh to 10th due to his wretched performance. Powerpunching Antwun Echols and Otis Grant switched places because of Echols' greater activity at 160 pounds, making Echols number five, and Grant number six.

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS: No changes.

WELTERWEIGHTS: Despite a flurry of activity at the top level, the 147-pounders stay the same. Winners Oscar De La Hoya and Felix Trinidad, remain at first and second, respectively. Losers Ike Quartey (number three) and Pernell Whitaker (number five) also retain their former rankings because of their strong showings against the top two.

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS: Formerly unranked Terronn Millett debuts at number two after taking the IBF belt away from Vince Phillips, who plummets from first to fifth. Taking over at number one is WBA champ Sharmba Mitchell, who holds a knockout win over Millett. Giovanni Parisi, 10th last issue, leaves to make room for Millett.

LIGHTWEIGHTS: Status quo.

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS: Even though Saul Duran held WBA titlist Takanori Hatakeyama to a draw, it wasn't enough to crack the ratings due to the profusion of talent at 130 pounds.

FEATHERWEIGHTS: Although WBA boss Antonio Cermeno (number five) and Juan Manuel Marquez (number six) both tallied wins, the opposition wasn't good enough to merit advancement.

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS: IBF kingpin Vuyani Bungu tightened his grip on his number-one position by knocking out Victor Llerena. Ditto for WBC champ Erik Morales (number two), who scored a second-round kayo of mismatched Angel Chacon.

BANTAMWEIGHTS: Sirimongkol Singmanassuk, formerly number seven, has moved up to the junior lightweight division. Everybody below moves up a notch, and streaking Dario Azuaga enters at number 10.

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS: No changes.

FLYWEIGHTS: No changes.

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS: Joma Gamboa falls from eighth to 10th after losing a decision to WBA champ Pichitnoi C. Siriwat, who stays at number three.

STRAWWEIGHTS: No changes.

POUND-FOR-POUND: Because the De La Hoya-Quartey fight was close, some observers think it proves that Jones is really the pound-for-pound boss. But if you fight outstanding fighters, and Quartey certainly fits that description, you're going to be involved in competitive fights. Jones' last two opponents, middleweight Grant and no-hoper Rick Frazier, were bad jokes. ■

THE RING RATINGS

For Period Ended February 23, 1999

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.

Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.

These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

Ratings By The Editors

Records By Fight Fax Inc.

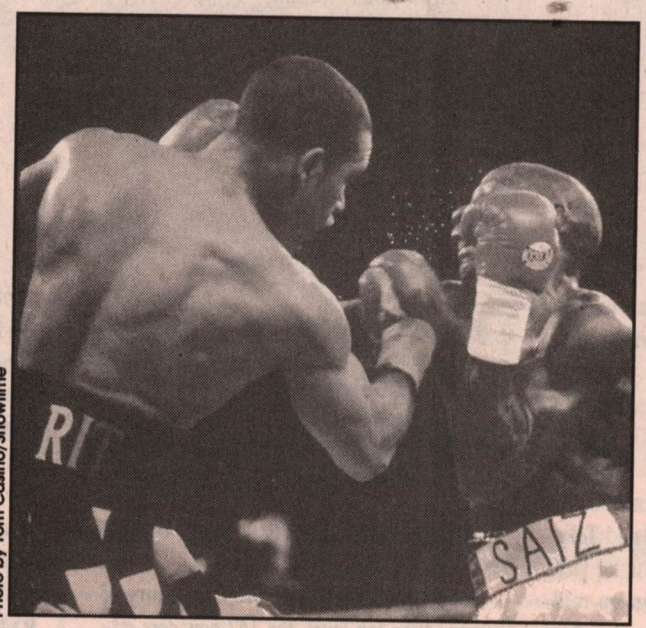


Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

New junior welterweight number one Sharmba Mitchell rocks Pedro Saiz with an uppercut

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1. **EVANDER HOLYFIELD** Fairburn, GA *36-3 (WBA/IBF Champ)*
2. **LENNOX LEWIS** England *34-1 (WBC Champ)*
3. **MICHAEL GRANT** Norristown, PA *29-0*
4. **MIKE TYSON** Catskill, NY *46-3*
5. **CHRIS BYRD** Flint, MI *26-0*
6. **IKE IBEABUCHI** Dallas, TX *19-0*
7. **DAVID TUA** Totowa, NJ *33-1*
8. **ANDREW GOLOTA** Chicago, IL *33-3*
9. **HASIM RAHMAN** Baltimore, MD *29-1*
10. **SHANNON BRIGGS** New York, NY *32-2*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 190 pounds

1. **FABRICE TIOZZO** France *40-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **JUAN CARLOS GOMEZ** Germany *25-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **ARTHUR WILLIAMS** Las Vegas, NV *30-4-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **MARCELO DOMINGUEZ** Argentina *25-2-1*
5. **CARL THOMPSON** England *24-4*
6. **IMAMU MAYFIELD** New Brunswick, NJ *18-2*
7. **ROBERT DANIELS** Miami, FL *38-3-1*
8. **RALF ROCCHIGIANI** Germany *40-9-7*
9. **SAUL MONTANA** Mexico *32-6*
10. **KENNY KEENE** Emmett, ID *43-3*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1. **ROY JONES** Pensacola, FL *39-1 (WBC/WBA Champ)*
2. **DARIUSZ MICHALCZEWSKI** Germany *39-0*
3. **REGGIE JOHNSON** Houston, TX *38-5-1 (IBF Champ)*
4. **GRACIANO ROCCHIGIANI** Germany *40-4-1*
5. **LOU DEL VALLE** Bronx, NY *28-2*
6. **ERIC HARDING** Philadephia, PA *15-0*
7. **MONTELL GRIFFIN** Chicago, IL *32-2*
8. **MICHAEL NUNN** Davenport, IA *53-4*
9. **ANTONIO TARVER** Orlando, FL *12-0*
10. **DERRICK HARMON** Chicago, IL *17-0*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1. **FRANKIE LILES** N. Hollywood, CA *32-1 (WBA Champ)*
2. **JOE CALZAGHE** Wales *26-0*
3. **RICHIE WOODHALL** England *26-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **SVEN OTTKE** Germany *13-0 (IBF Champ)*
5. **CHARLES BREWER** Philadelphia, PA *32-6*
6. **THOMAS TATE** Houston, TX *36-5*
7. **ROBIN REID** England *26-2-1*
8. **ANDREI SCHKALIKOV** Russia *30-4-1*
9. **VINNY PAZIENZA** Cranston, RI *44-7*
10. **SUGARBOY MALINGA** South Africa *44-11*

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 160 pounds

1. **BERNARD HOPKINS** Philadelphia, PA *35-2-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **WILLIAM JOPPY** Washington, D.C. *26-1-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **HASSINE CHERIFI** France *26-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **KEITH HOLMES** Washington, D.C. *32-2*
5. **ANTWUN ECHOLS** Davenport, IA *22-2-1*
6. **OTIS GRANT** Canada *31-2-1*
7. **ROBERT McCRACKEN** England *32-0*
8. **RYAN RHODES** England *18-1*
9. **JULIO CESAR GREEN** Brooklyn, NY *24-3*
10. **ROBERT ALLEN** Atlanta, GA *23-3*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 154 pounds

1. **FERNANDO VARGAS**
   Oxnard, CA *15-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **LAURENT BOUDOUANI**
   France *38-2-1 (WBA Champ)*
3. **FRANCISCO CASTILLEJO**
   Spain *44-4 (WBC Champ)*
4. **KEITH MULLINGS**
   Brooklyn, NY *16-5-1*
5. **YORY BOY CAMPAS**
   Mexico *72-3*
6. **HARRY SIMON**
   Namibia *17-0*
7. **JULIO CESAR VASQUEZ**
   Argentina *60-3*
8. **WINKY WRIGHT**
   St. Petersburg, FL *38-2*
9. **BRONCO McKART**
   Monroe, MI *36-2*
10. **TONY MARSHALL**
    Albany, NY *31-7-6*

WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 147 pounds

1. **OSCAR DE LA HOYA**
   Whittier, CA *30-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **FELIX TRINIDAD**
   Puerto Rico *34-0 (IBF Champ)*
3. **IKE QUARTEY**
   Ghana *34-1-1*
4. **JAMES PAGE**
   Pittsburg, CA *23-3 (WBA Champ)*
5. **PERNELL WHITAKER**
   Norfolk, VA *41-3-1*
6. **JOSE LUIS LOPEZ**
   Mexico *42-4-2*
7. **OBA CARR**
   Detroit, MI *48-2-1*
8. **VERNON FORREST**
   Atlanta, GA *27-0*
9. **WILFREDO RIVERA**
   Puerto Rico *28-3-1*
10. **SHANNAN TAYLOR**
    Australia *23-0-1*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 140 pounds

1. **SHARMBA MITCHELL**
   Washington, D.C. *44-2 (WBA Champ)*
2. **TERRONN MILLETT**
   St. Louis, MO *21-1-1 (IBF Champ)*
3. **KOSTYA TSZYU**
   Australia *22-1-1*
4. **MIGUEL ANGEL GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *43-1-1*
5. **VINCE PHILLIPS**
   Las Vegas, NV *39-4*
6. **BOLILLO GONZALEZ**
   Mexico *48-3-1*
7. **KHALID RAHILOU**
   France *32-3*
8. **ZAB JUDAH**
   Brooklyn, NY *19-0*
9. **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
   Mexico *100-3-2*
10. **REGGIE GREEN**
    Clinton, MD *29-2*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 135 pounds

1. **SHANE MOSLEY**
   Pomona, CA *31-0 (IBF Champ)*
2. **JEAN-BAPTISTE MENDY**
   France *53-7-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **CESAR BAZAN**
   Mexico *34-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **STEVE JOHNSTON**
   Denver, CO *25-1*
5. **ISRAEL CARDONA**
   Hartford, CT *30-2*
6. **ORZUBEK NAZAROV**
   Japan *26-1*
7. **IVAN ROBINSON**
   Philadelphia, PA *27-2*
8. **PHILLIP HOLIDAY**
   South Africa *34-1*
9. **ARTURO GATTI**
   Jersey City, NJ *29-4*
10. **JAMES LEIJA**
    San Antonio, TX *36-4-2*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 130 pounds

1. **FLOYD MAYWEATHER**
   Grand Rapids, MI *20-0 (WBC Champ)*
2. **TAKANORI HATAKEYAMA**
   Japan *22-0-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **ROBERTO GARCIA**
   Oxnard, CA *32-0 (IBF Champ)*
4. **ANGEL MANFREDY**
   Gary, IN *25-3-1*
5. **YONG SOO CHOI**
   South Korea *24-3-1*
6. **JESUS CHAVEZ**
   Austin, TX *25-1*
7. **GOYO VARGAS**
   Mexico *38-6-1*
8. **ANATOLY ALEXANDROV**
   Kazakhstan *35-3*
9. **JOHN BROWN**
   Atlantic City, NJ *19-5*
10. **DIEGO CORRALES**
    Sacramento, CA *26-0*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 126 pounds

1. **NASEEM HAMED**
   England *31-0*
2. **LUISITO ESPINOSA**
   Philippines *44-7 (WBC Champ)*
3. **FRED NORWOOD**
   St. Louis, MO *33-0-1*
4. **DERRICK GAINER**
   Pensacola, FL *27-4*
5. **ANTONIO CERMENO**
   Venezuela *33-2 (WBA Champ)*
6. **JUAN MANUEL MARQUEZ**
   Mexico *28-1*
7. **MANUEL MEDINA**
   Mexico *55-10 (IBF Champ)*
8. **ANGEL VAZQUEZ**
   Hartford, CT *16-0*
9. **CESAR SOTO**
   Mexico *52-7-2*
10. **WILFREDO VAZQUEZ**
    Puerto Rico *50-8-3*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 122 pounds

1. **VUYANI BUNGU**
   South Africa *37-2 (IBF Champ)*
2. **ERIK MORALES**
   Mexico *32-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **MARCO ANTONIO BARRERA**
   Mexico *47-2*
4. **WAYNE McCULLOUGH**
   Las Vegas, NV *22-2*
5. **NESTOR GARZA**
   Mexico *35-1 (WBA Champ)*
6. **KENNEDY McKINNEY**
   Memphis, TN *33-4-1*
7. **CARLOS BARRETO**
   Venezuela *13-0*
8. **ENRIQUE SANCHEZ**
   Mexico *24-1-1*
9. **MBULELO BOTILE**
   South Africa *23-1*
10. **DANNY ROMERO**
    Albuquerque, NM *33-3*

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 118 pounds

1. **TIM AUSTIN**
   Cincinnati, OH *18-0-1 (IBF Champ)*
2. **JOHNNY TAPIA**
   Albuquerque, NM *45-0-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **VEERAPHOL SAHAPROM**
   Thailand *21-1 (WBC Champ)*
4. **JORGE ELIECER JULIO**
   Colombia *40-1*
5. **NANA KONADU**
   Ghana *39-4*
6. **JOICHIRO TATSUYOSHI**
   Japan *17-5-1*
7. **PAULIE AYALA**
   Ft. Worth, TX *25-1*
8. **DAORUNG C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand *61-6-3*
9. **ADAN VARGAS**
   Mexico *29-1-1*
10. **DARIO AZUAGA**
    Paraguay *44-0-1*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 115 pounds

1. **MARK JOHNSON**
   Washington, D.C. *36-1*
2. **IN JOO CHO**
   South Korea *14-0 (WBC Champ)*
3. **JESUS ROJAS**
   Venezuela *32-7-2 (WBA Champ)*
4. **GERRY PENALOSA**
   Philippines *39-1-2*
5. **SATOSHI IIDA**
   Japan *25-1-1*
6. **YOKTHAI SITHOAR**
   Thailand *14-1-1*
7. **HAROLD GREY**
   Colombia *22-2*
8. **LUIS BOLANO**
   Colombia *23-0*
9. **RATANACHAI DUTCHBOY GYM**
   Thailand *27-3*
10. **JOEL LUNA ZARATE**
    Mexico *32-3-2*

FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 112 pounds

1. **MANNY PACQUIAO**
   Philippines *24-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **HUGO SOTO**
   Argentina *50-5-2 (WBA Champ)*
3. **MAURICIO PASTRANA**
   Colombia *20-0*
4. **CHATCHAI DUTCHBOY GYM**
   Thailand *33-2*
5. **JOSE BONILLA**
   Venezuela *24-5*
6. **SAEN SOR PLOENCHIT**
   Thailand *29-1*
7. **ALEJANDRO MONTIEL**
   Mexico *37-3*
8. **RUBEN SANCHEZ-LEON**
   Mexico *23-7-1*
9. **DAVID GUERAULT**
   France *14-0*
10. **CHOKVIWAT CHOKCHAI**
    Thailand *31-3*

JR. FLYWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 108 pounds

1. **SAMAN SORJATURONG**
   Thailand *39-2-1 (WBC Champ)*
2. **ROSENDO ALVAREZ**
   Nicaragua *24-1-1*
3. **PICHITNOI C. SIRIWAT**
   Thailand *21-1 (WBA Champ)*
4. **BABY JAKE MATLALA**
   South Africa *50-10-2*
5. **WILL GRIGSBY**
   St. Paul, MN *13-1-1 (IBF Champ)*
6. **JUAN CORDOBA**
   Argentina *32-4-3*
7. **MELCHOR COB CASTRO**
   Mexico *53-5-4*
8. **OSVALDO GUERRERO**
   Mexico *24-3*
9. **YEOSAM CHOI**
   South Korea *18-1*
10. **JOMA GAMBOA**
    Philippines *25-4-1*

STRAWWEIGHTS
Weight Limit: 105 pounds

1. **RICARDO LOPEZ**
   Mexico *47-0-1 (WBC/WBA Champ)*
2. **ZOLANI PETELO**
   South Africa *13-2-2 (IBF Champ)*
3. **WANDEE CHOR CHAREON**
   Thailand *22-3*
4. **SONGKRAM PORPAOIN**
   Thailand *20-1-1*
5. **CHANA PORPAOIN**
   Thailand *38-1*
6. **ROCKY LIN**
   Philippines *26-2*
7. **ALA VILLAMOR**
   Philippines *29-2-1*
8. **JOSE AGUIRRE**
   Mexico *19-1-1*
9. **KERMIN GUARDIA**
   Columbia *30-2*
10. **EDGAR CARDENAS**
    Mexico *24-6-1*

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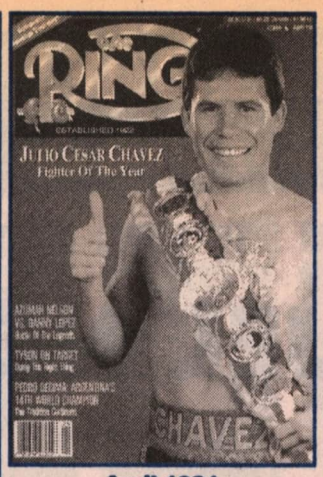

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May 1998: Wrestling With His Reinstatement: Is Tyson Biting The Hand That Feeds Him? Plus: Lewis-Briggs preview, Michael Grant, Manfredy-Gatti, Ski Goldstein, Dan Donnelly.

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July 1998: Holyfield ... Tapia ... Hamed ... Jones ... Trinidad ... De La Hoya: Who Will Be The First To Fall? Plus: Magic Johnson, Chavez-Gonzalez & Lopez-Alvarez, underappreciated boxers.

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Sept. 1998 (92-Page Special): This Man's Not Unbeatable! Five Top Trainers Reveal How To Solve The Hamed Puzzle. Plus: John Tate, Freddie Norwood, Andrew Golota, Roy Jones, 12 greatest finishes.

Oct. 1998: Really Hard Punch ... Really Soft Lips: Oscar Makes Legs Quiver In And Out Of The Ring. Plus: Hector Camacho Jr., Mayweather-Hernandez preview, *Tuesday Night Fights.*

Nov. 1998: Oscar De La Hoya vs. The All-Time Greats. Plus: David Reid, Fernando Vargas, Cory Spinks, LeRoy Neiman, Don King, Hall of Fame.

Dec. 1998: Can Tyson Muscle His Way Back To The Top? 25 Insiders Have Their Say. Plus: Oscar De La Hoya, Teofilo Stevenson, Team Freedom, Tapia-Romero II preview, Roy Jones.

Holiday 1998 (92-Page Special): A War Worthy Of An Encore: Why Gatti & Robinson Have To Do It Again! Plus: Kostya Tszyu, Israel Cardona, Mills Lane, 50 greatest heavyweights.

Jan. 1999: Sugar Shane Mosley: The Sweet Tradition Continues. Plus: Evander Holyfield, Julio Cesar Chavez, Erik Morales, Ray "Windmill" White.

Feb. 1999: 1999! It's Gonna Be A Great Year For Boxing. Plus: Mike Tyson, Foreman-Holmes, David Reid, Eric Morel, Richie Mitchell, quitters.

March 1999: De La Hoya vs. Quartey: Does Bazooka Have The Weapons To Shoot Down Oscar? Plus: Sugar Shane Mosley, Lopez-Alvarez II, Roy Jones, Coley Wallace.

April 1999 (92-Page Special): Fighter Of The Year: Floyd Mayweather Jr.: "He's So Good, It's Scary!" Plus: Fernando Vargas, James Page, Luisito Espinosa, Robinson-Gatti II, Archie Moore, Carlos Oritz, 1998 diary.

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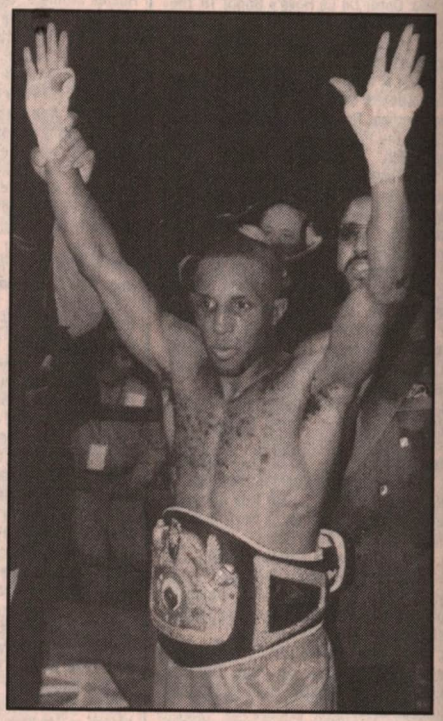
NEW FACES

LEMUEL NELSON

Lightweight

By Joe Santoliquito



The examples were like a legion of army ants surrounding Lemuel Nelson. They crawled on the shelves, and on the walls in the form of countless trophies and framed plaques spread throughout his friend's home. Raised by a mother who had eight children, Nelson always had a tangible reference to tell him that success can be achieved through hard work and determination. Nelson grew up with this friend, watched him become a man, and eventually a world champion in three different weight classes.

Nelson feels he would not be anywhere in life if it were not for Roy Jones, the WBA/WBC light heavyweight champion. He's been a big brother, a stepfather, a mentor, and a friend. Nelson, in return, has fulfilled the unspoken pact that Jones demands of all the fighters he supports: Give it your all, all of the time. Now, the 23-year-old Nelson, 13-2 (9), finds himself making inroads as a lightweight.

He's taken what he's learned from Jones and incorporated it into his own way of thinking. Coming off a 12-round victory over tough Brian Adams in January, Nelson is starting to think about the next step: emulating Jones' success and becoming a world champion. Obviously, Nelson feels some things have rubbed off, since he has practically lived with Jones from the time he was 10 years old. Through his association with Jones, he has been well-schooled in the dos and don'ts of boxing, both in and out of the ring.

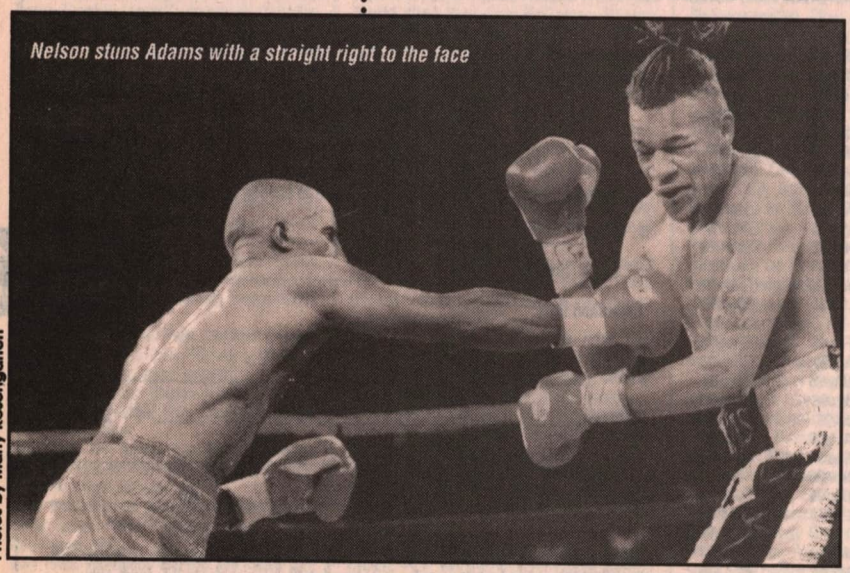
"Lemuel is very, very talented," Jones said. "It won't be long before he starts doing some things, and moving forward. He just

(Continued on page 58)

PRO RECORD

1996		
Jan. 23	Paul Sankfield, Biloxi, MS	KO 1
March 28	Marty Robbins, Pensacola, FL	KO 4
April 18	Darren Gills, Tulsa, OK	KO 1
May 9	Willy Cunningham, Pensacola	KO 2
June 15	Jonathan Sciandra, Jacksonville, FL	KO 1
Sept. 11	Joe Gillum, Pensacola	KO 1
Oct. 4	Roberto Sierra, New York City	W 4
Dec. 11	Alton Madison, Pensacola	KO 2
1997		
Feb. 27	Henry Hawkins, Atlanta, GA	KO 6
April 18	Jose Manjarrez, Las Vegas	L 6
Aug. 5	Abraham Bruno, Ledyard, CT	W 6
1998		
April 25	Gary Richardson, Biloxi	KO 3
July 18	John Brown, New York City	L 8
Nov. 14	Sam Girard, Ledyard	W 6
1999		
Jan. 9	Brian Adams, Pensacola	W 12

FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KOs
15	13	2	0	9



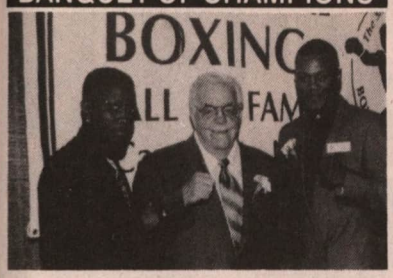
Nelson stuns Adams with a straight right to the face

Photos by Marty Rosengarten

★ INDUCTION WEEKEND JUNE 10-13, 1999 ★

★ A Tenth Year Celebration ★

BANQUET OF CHAMPIONS



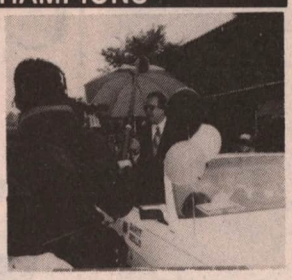
Welcome . . . Pound for pound greats Pernell Whitaker and Felix Trinidad join Lou Duva at banquet dais.

FIST CASTING

Everlasting. . . A fist cast by Sugar Ray Leonard.

PARADE OF CHAMPIONS

Greetings . . . From marching bands to special personalities, the parade has it all.



Action! . . . Hollywood star Danny Aiello enjoys parade route.

CELEBRITY BOXING NIGHT

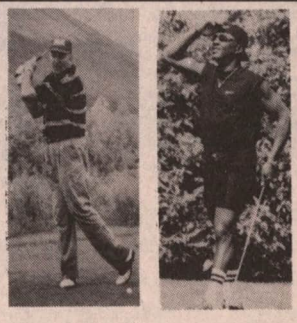
Fight Night . . . Hector Camacho in action-packed bout at Turning Stone Casino Resort.

Roadwork . . . Hagler, Martin and Trinidad ready for run.

5K RACE, FUN RUN

Go! . . . Start of the morning run

GOLF TOURNAMENT



Fore . . . Gerry Cooney tees off and Marvelous Marvin Hagler spots his shot.

INDUCTION CEREMONY

Alumni . . . Left, Canto, Duva, and Saad Muhammad show off Hall of Fame rings. At right, Sugar Ray Leonard and Jose Torres at their 1997 induction.

BOXING CARD SHOW

A Collector's Dream . . . Boxing memorabilia for fans. The world's only all-boxing show and sale draws collectors from throughout the world.

VIP COCKTAIL RECEPTION

Fine aged as wine . . . Legendary champions Moore, LaMotta, Patterson welcome fans at VIP gala reception.

WORKOUT SESSIONS

Conditioning . . . Kevin Kelley works the speed bag while Christy Martin focuses during shadowboxing for the public on the Museum grounds.

RINGSIDE TALKS

Reminiscing . . . Bert Sugar interviews Hall of Famer Joey Giardello.

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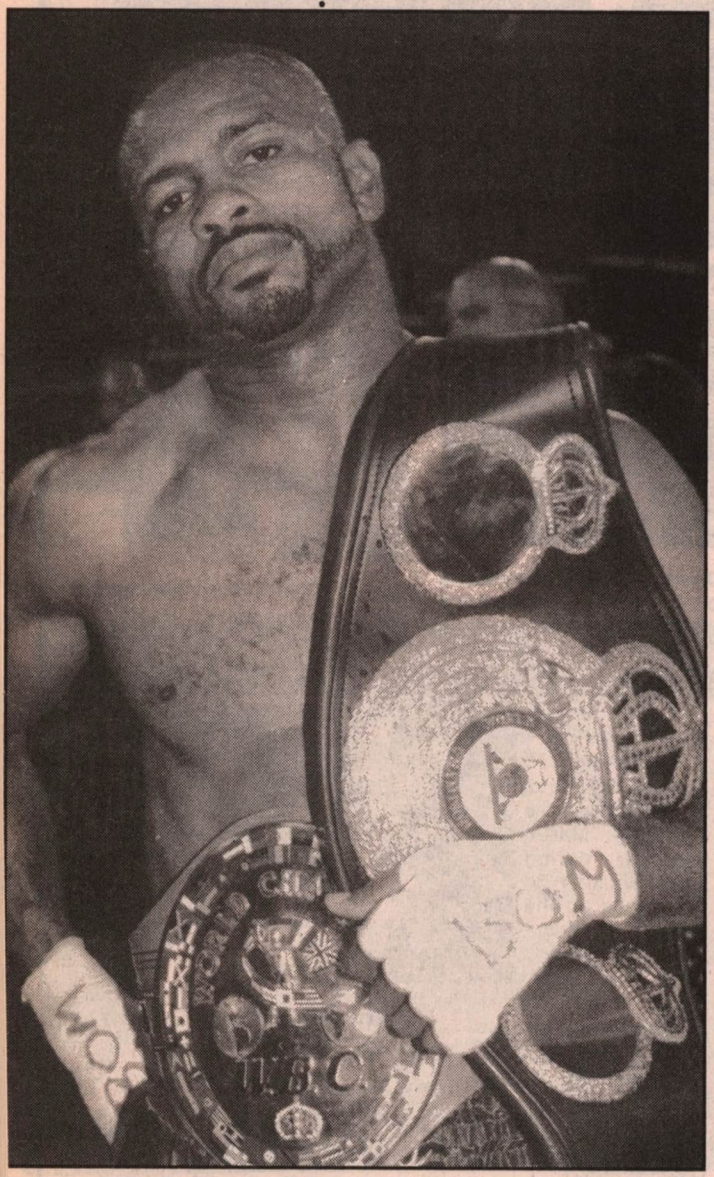
RYAN OUT LOUD

By Jeff Ryan

IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD AS WE KNOW IT



We know Jones can fight, but can he tame a tiger?

This Y2K problem, the possibility that countless computers around the globe will stop functioning properly on January 1, 2000, sure is scary. The best-case scenario calls for minor interruptions in our quality of life. The worst-case scenario calls for massive power failures, widespread rioting and looting, banks losing track of deposits, hospital life-support equipment faltering, trains and elevators coming to a stop in mid-journey, and air traffic control equipment suddenly having a mind of its own.

Two thoughts immediately come to mind: First, it might not be a bad idea to rent space in one of those shotgun-fortified shelters some doomsayers are constructing. (As long as Domino's will deliver to it.) And, second, somebody better put together that Shane Mosley-Floyd Mayweather Jr. bout awfully soon.

Knowing fight fans, you're probably saying, "The heck with plane crashes, bank collapses, some old guy's respirator, and anarchy in the streets. Just tell me how this could affect *boxing*!" Well, there's no way of knowing for sure, but here's what some of the world's top computer experts are forecasting:

•At midnight on New Year's Eve, arena lights will turn off everywhere. Looking to put the best spin possible on a disastrous situation, the announcers on ESPN2, CBS, Fox SportsNet, Showtime, and Univision will calmly welcome fans to *their* first-ever *Boxing After Dark* telecasts.

•PunchStat will lose all credibility when, after 12 minutes of action in the Larry Holmes-George Foreman fight, it shows that both men are landing 98 percent of their 240 punches per round.

•Scoreboard clocks will prove unreliable. Just ask William Joppy, who will file a protest with the Nevada State Athletic Commission after he's knocked out by Bernard Hopkins at the 7:53 mark of round 19.

•Computer snafus will result in the January 2000 ratings of the WBA, WBC, and IBF making absolutely no sense. Examples: Henry Akinwande ranked first at heavyweight by the WBA, Richard Frazier rated the top light heavyweight con-

Maybe Golota needs a new theme song

Photo by Tom Casino/HBO

tender by the WBC, and Victor Polo sitting atop the IBF's featherweight top 10. What's that? Those were actually the ratings in the autumn of '98? Oh, well, in that case, maybe Y2K will fix things.

•Jim Lampley's electronic ringside thesaurus will malfunction without warning. So instead of making an observation like, "There is a concatenation of deficient pugilists on his dossier," the HBO announcer will find himself saying, "Wow, Larry, he sure has starched a lot of bums."

•Problems with robots will be particularly evident in the fight game. You won't want to be around when the face plate of ring announcer Ed Derian pops off, revealing blown fuses and smoldering wires.

•All of the marquees on the Las Vegas Strip will go haywire, mixing up information and confusing fight fans and tourists alike. Johnny Tapia opening for Englebert Humperdink? Siegfried & Roy Jones starring at The Mirage? Just imagine what the reaction will be when rowdy Britons show up at the Las Vegas Hilton and are told that the two drinks are included when you buy a ticket to see Wayne *Newton*, not Wayne McCullough.

•Following the Oscar De La Hoya-Felix Trinidad fight, the video poker and blackjack machines at Caesars Palace will stop accepting money, resulting in a casino drop that's even smaller than the catering bill for a Bob Arum press conference.

•Joe Goossen's tanning bed will shut off prematurely, resulting in the trainer vowing that he'll never appear in public again.

•In a rematch of history's most famous computer bout, Muhammad Ali's relentless bodypunching will wear down the dancing, jabbing Rocky Marciano. Trailing on the cards and getting easily outboxed, "The Greatest" will wait until his opponent executes "The Marciano Shuffle," then hit him with a visage-distorting right cross to end the battle. On the undercard, Baby Jake Matlala will be disqualified for hitting Primo Carnera low, Babe Didrikson will outpoint Lucia Rijker, and Jack "Nonpareil" Dempsey will kayo Tim "Chocolate-Covered Cherry" Witherspoon.

•There will be major problems with the computer-cued music that accompanies fighters' ring entrances. It will be bad enough when Michael Grant and Andrew Golota climb through the ropes to "Muskrat Love" and "Disco Duck," respectively. But try keeping a straight face when Christy Martin walks in to the theme from *Shaft* and Butterbean's arrival is heralded by "Da You Think I'm Sexy?" Also, be prepared to duck the flying bottles when the crowd at the Julio Cesar Chavez-Bolillo Gonzalez shootout in Mexico is asked to rise, then hears the strains of the Latvian national anthem.

•Vinny Pazienza's p.c. will crash and his autobiography—working title: *Sugar Ray Robinson Wouldn't Have Lasted 30 Seconds With Me!*—will be lost in cyberspace.

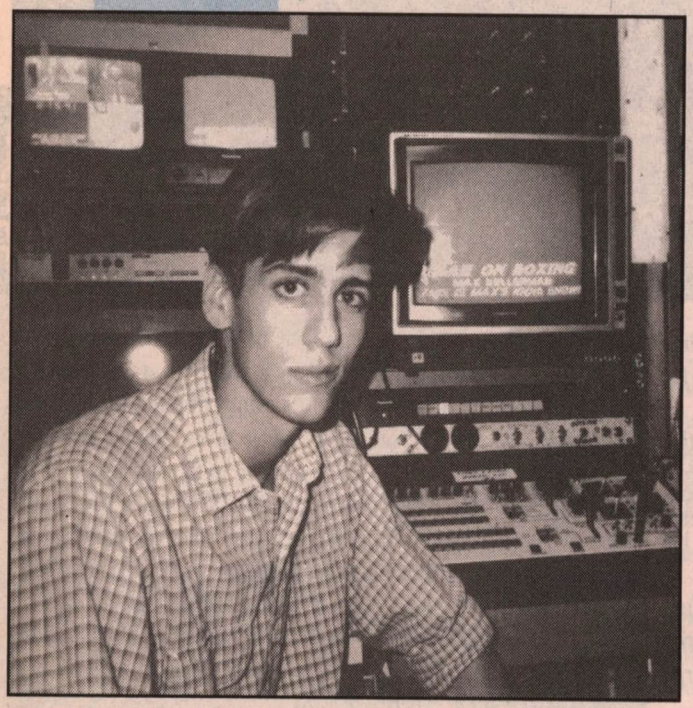
•After computerized courthouse records are jumbled, Mike Tyson will be informed that he's being kept behind bars until 2046. Showtime Event Television will then announce that it plans to air the comeback bout of the 80-year-old Tyson, against Peter McNeeley III.

•A breakdown of box office computers will result in major ticket snafus. Fans who shell out $2,000 for ringside seats to Evander Holyfield-Lennox Lewis II at Madison Square Garden will be issued tickets for the balcony at Philly's Blue Horizon. An attempt to buy tickets for a card at Mexico City's Plaza del Toros will get you nosebleed seats at a Chicago Bulls game. And Argentine fans thinking they're going to see light heavyweight Fabian Chancalay will be livid when they discover they're actually holding tickets for a rock-and-roll reunion concert.

•Don't think for a second that THE RING will escape Y2K unscathed. The January 2000 cover story, "The 50 Best Looking People in Boxing," will invite ridicule when software glitches result in Mia St. John being rated four spots below Daniel Zaragoza. And a complete breakdown at the printing plant will keep "Ryan Out Loud" from ever making it onto the page.

Consider the latter proof that even with society on the brink of complete collapse, there will still be some things for which to be grateful. ■

CAMERA CLICKS



Recognize this teenaged boxing enthusiast? That's right, it's ESPN2's Max Kellerman, before he discovered the magic of hair gel. Perhaps the most fascinating element of this photo is the state of young Max's mouth: closed.

Photo by Tom Casino

Poor Fred Levin. Just before the Florida-based manager of Ike Quartey was to be named an honorary chief of Ghana at the United Nations in January, a small tent collapsed over top of him, leaving Levin without time to change back into his business suit. Levin's new name: Chief Nana Ofori Agyeman I. We'll stick with "Fred."

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

David Reid declared his intention of being the "bread winner" as he prepared to take on Frenchman Laurent Boudouani for the WBA super welterweight title. But before the fight, there were plenty of questions: Could Reid "rise" to the occasion? Was he just "loafing" through training? Would Boudouani just "roll" over for him? Can Camera Clicks get any cornier?

Photo by Pat Orr

International Boxing Hall of Fame Director Ed Brophy shows off portraits of some of the members of the class of 1999, including featherweight champion Eusebio Pedroza, publicist Murray Goodman, promoter Bob Arum, and heavyweight/light heavyweight great Jimmy Bivins. In addition to Pedroza, Arum, and Bivins, other living inductees Khaosai Galaxy, Mickey Duff, and Irving Rudd are expected to attend Hall of Fame weekend in June.

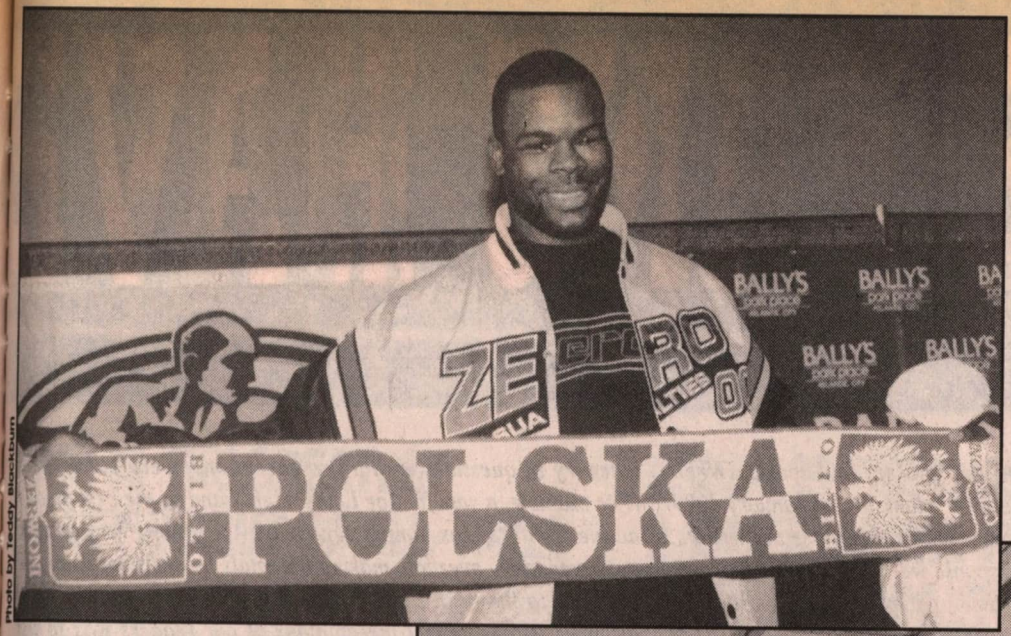


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Surprisingly tucked in amongst the hundreds of Andrew Golota fanatics in Atlantic City on January 30 was potential future opponent Michael Grant, whose rich Polish heritage had to this point gone unpublicized. If ever an opponent would give Golota difficulty keeping his punches above the beltline, it's the 6'7" Grant.

Photo by Tom Casino/Showtime

It's too soon to say whether junior welter prospect DeMarcus "Chop Chop" Corley is a legitimate title contender, but he does seem to be a threat to Hector Camacho's title of King of Press Conference Wackiness. Prior to his most recent fight, Corley unexpectedly stripped down to his speedos; inside sources say he was one garment away from showing us where he got his nickname.

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Yes, Dr. Monica Turner looks rather attractive as she applies her lipstick in this photograph, but she's one woman we don't recommend hitting on. Her husband, somebody named Mike Tyson, doesn't exactly have a reputation for world-class anger management skills.

NOSTALGIA CORNER

Sonny Liston's wife, Geraldine, had the heavyweight champion on an unusual at-home training regimen in 1962 that included doing the dishes, vacuuming the rug, and, as shown here, moving the furniture. "If he can't handle the rigors of simple household chores," Mrs. Liston asked, "how can he expect to beat Clay?"

THE FANS HAVE SPOKEN!

PRESENTING THE RESULTS OF *THE RING* READERS' POLL

Compiled by Eric Raskin

The people have spoken. And spoken. And spoken. When we decided to run an answer blank in our January 1999 issue that would allow our readers to become our writers, we had no idea what kind of response we'd get. Would our readers really feel like taking the time and spending the postage to tell us what they thought? Well, as the hundreds and hundreds of replies rolled into our mailroom, we got our answer.

And now, after months of tallying and tabulating, the results of THE RING Readers' Poll are being made public. A couple of guidelines: We counted every response we received between November '98 and January '99, but those that didn't apply to the category in question, with a few exceptions, were eliminated. (For example, a vote for Joe Louis' right hand as the best among active fighters was simply ignored.) Also, not every reader answered every question, making the totals inconsistent from one category to the next. That being the case, we decided the most accurate way to reflect the opinions of our readers was to list percentages of the votes cast in the category, rather than just a vote tally.

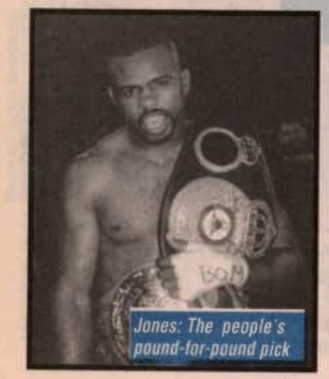
For once, you're not just reading the opinions of a bunch of crotchety old boxing writers. This is the article you wrote. And you did a damn good job.

WHO IS THE BEST FIGHTER IN THE WORLD TODAY, POUND-FOR-POUND?

Ever since Roy Jones lost by disqualification to Montell Griffin in March of '97, THE RING has recognized Oscar De La Hoya as boxing's finest. But our readers clearly disagree with our editorial staff, as Jones received more than twice as many votes as "The Golden Boy" to claim the title of "People's Champion." And as proof that every vote was counted, no matter how illogical, note the inclusion of featherweight Genaro Rios, who has been knocked out twice in the past year, but received a vote nonetheless.

1. Roy Jones	52.5%
2. Oscar De La Hoya	24.6%
3. Evander Holyfield	7.2%
4. Ricardo Lopez	5.1%
5. Shane Mosley	2.5%
6. Felix Trinidad	2.1%
7. Mark Johnson	1.3%
8. (tie) Naseem Hamed	0.8%
8. (tie) Floyd Mayweather	0.8%
8. (tie) Johnny Tapia	0.8%

Others receiving votes (2.3%): Michael Grant, Jose Luis Lopez, Lucia Rijker, Genaro Rios, David Tua

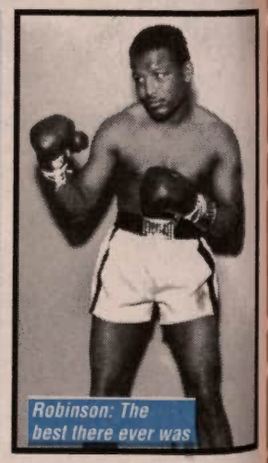


Jones: The people's pound-for-pound pick

WHO IS THE GREATEST FIGHTER OF ALL-TIME, POUND-FOR-POUND?

1. Sugar Ray Robinson	62.4%
2. Muhammad Ali	12.0%
3. Roberto Duran	4.7%
4. Marvin Hagler	3.8%
5. Rocky Marciano	2.6%
6. Willie Pep	2.1%
7. (tie) Henry Armstrong	1.7%
7. (tie) Julio Cesar Chavez	1.7%
7. (tie) Roy Jones	1.7%
10. (tie) Sam Langford	0.9%
10. (tie) Benny Leonard	0.9%
10. (tie) Joe Louis	0.9%

Others receiving votes (4.6%): Carmen Basilio, Charley Burley, Butterbean, Ezzard Charles, Eder Jofre, Small Montana, Archie Moore, Aaron Pryor, Salvador Sanchez, Gene Tunney, Mickey Walker



Robinson: The best there ever was

No surprise here. Ray Robinson is almost unanimously named by boxing pundits as the greatest fighter ever, and our readers clearly agree. But it's interesting to note the way today's fans have taken a slant toward the more modern fighters, accounting for the surprisingly high finishes of Roberto Duran, Marvin Hagler, Julio Cesar Chavez, and Roy Jones.

WHO IS THE GREATEST HEAVYWEIGHT OF ALL-TIME?

Only 12 fighters received votes in this category, and as you can the see, the totals were rather top-heavy. Muhammad Ali, Joe Louis, and Rocky Marciano combined for over 85 percent of the vote, and, as expected, the people still recognize Ali as "The Greatest." Ali also leads in terms of competition level, as he tangled with more fighters on the list (four) than any of the other votegetters.

1. Muhammad Ali	51.9%
2. Joe Louis	24.1%
3. Rocky Marciano	9.7%
4. Evander Holyfield	3.4%
5. Jack Johnson	3.0%
6. George Foreman	2.5%
7. Jack Dempsey	2.1%
8. Mike Tyson	1.7%
9. (tie) Joe Frazier	0.4%
9. (tie) Andrew Golota	0.4%
9. (tie) Larry Holmes	0.4%
9. (tie) Sonny Liston	0.4%

WHO IS THE LEAST ENTERTAINING FIGHTER IN THE WORLD TODAY?

1. Chris Byrd	15.6%
2. Pernell Whitaker	14.3%
3. Hector Camacho	10.3%
4. Henry Akinwande	6.7%
5. Naseem Hamed	4.9%
6. Lennox Lewis	4.5%
7. Butterbean	4.0%
7. Butterbean	4.0%
8. (tie) Virgil Hill	2.7%
8. (tie) Michael Moorer	2.7%
10. (tie) Larry Holmes	2.2%
10. (tie) Roy Jones	2.2%
10. (tie) Michael Nunn	2.2%
10. (tie) Mike Tyson	2.2%

Others receiving votes (25.5%): Paulie Ayala, Vaughn Bean, Frans Botha, Laurent Boudouani, Shannon Briggs, Vuyani Bungu, Hector Camacho Jr., Julio Cesar Chavez, Oscar De La Hoya, Larry Donald, Luisito Espinosa, Jesse Ferguson, George Foreman, Derrick Gainer, Andrew Golota, Michael Grant, Montell Griffin, Frankie Liles, Ed Mahone, Imamu Mayfield, Wayne McCullough, Ray Mercer, Dariusz Michalczewski, Vincenzo Nardiello, Johnny Nelson, Terry Norris, Dana Rosenblatt, Enrique Sanchez, Johnny Tapia, James Toney, Felix Trinidad, Fernando Vargas, Wilfredo Vazquez, Tim Witherspoon, Wolfgramm, Richie Woodhall

If you like to dance, clutch, or just take a generally defensive approach to the fight game, then you can bet THE RING's blood-and-guts readers don't want to see you. Light-hitting defensive wizards Chris Byrd and Pernell Whitaker may not rely on the despicable running/hugging tactics of Hector Camacho or the unforgivable grasping of Henry Akinwande, but they took the top two spots anyway with their safety-first styles. Also noteworthy is the high finish of Naseem Hamed, viewed by over one-quarter of our respondents as the most entertaining active fighter.

WHO IS THE MOST ENTERTAINING FIGHTER IN THE WORLD TODAY?

1. Arturo Gatti	36.4%
2. Naseem Hamed	25.8%
3. Oscar De La Hoya	6.4%
4. Roy Jones	5.1%
5. Mike Tyson	3.4%
6. Evander Holyfield	3.0%
7. (tie) George Foreman	2.1%
7. (tie) Shane Mosley	2.1%
7. (tie) Johnny Tapia	2.1%
10. (tie) Butterbean	1.7%
10. (tie) Angel Manfredy	1.7%
10. (tie) Kostya Tszyu	1.7%

Others receiving votes (8.5%): Marco Antonio Barrera, Julio Cesar Chavez, Chris Eubank, Andrew Golota, Michael Grant, Mark Johnson, Jose Luis Lopez, Christy Martin, Floyd Mayweather, Jorge Paez, Genaro Rios, Felix Trinidad, David Tua, Fernando Vargas

Proving why HBO brought him back again even after suffering two straight losses, the always dramatic Arturo Gatti held off Prince Naseem Hamed, whose vote total was surprisingly high considering his last performance, against Wayne McCullough, was somewhat of a dud. Certainly the most surprising result here was Butterbean cracking the top 10, indicating that the novelty of his act hasn't worn off yet for some fans.

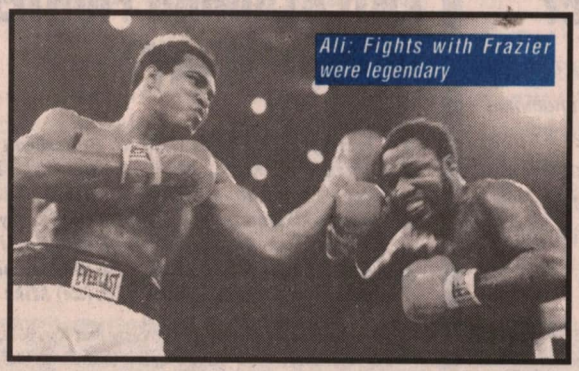
Photo by Anthony Neste/HBO

Gatti: Thrilling even in defeat

WHO IS THE MOST ENTERTAINING FIGHTER OF ALL-TIME?

1. Muhammad Ali	*37.8%*
2. Sugar Ray Robinson	*9.9%*
3. Mike Tyson	*5.2%*
4. Sugar Ray Leonard	*4.7%*
5. (tie) Thomas Hearns	*3.4%*
5. (tie) Rocky Marciano	*3.4%*
7. (tie) Roberto Duran	*3.0%*
7. (tie) Matthew Saad Muhammad	*3.0%*
9. Aaron Pryor	*2.6%*
10. (tie) Henry Armstrong	*2.1%*
10. (tie) Marvin Hagler	*2.1%*

Others receiving votes (22.8%): Alexis Arguello, Max Baer, Carmen Basilio, Hector Camacho, Bobby Chacon, Julio Cesar Chavez, Oscar De La Hoya, Jack Dempsey, Frank Fletcher, Joe Frazier, Tony Galento, Arturo Gatti, Rocky Graziano, Naseem Hamed, Gypsy Joe Harris, Evander Holyfield, Jake LaMotta, Danny Lopez, Joe Louis, Small Montana, Archie Moore, Gaspar Ortega, Jorge Paez, Vinny Pazienza, Willie Pep, Salvador Sanchez, Earnie Shavers, Meldrick Taylor, Randy Turpin, Pernell Whitaker, Tony Zale, Fritzie Zivic



Ali: Fights with Frazier were legendary

Thanks to the incredible competition that pushed him to the limit so many times, Muhammad Ali won this one hands down. Yes, his flashy style and ability to yap were big parts of Ali's appeal, but the unforgettable trilogies with Joe Frazier and Ken Norton and the classic meeting with George Foreman were probably what distanced Ali from all the runners-up.

WHO IS THE LEAST ENTERTAINING FIGHTER OF ALL-TIME?

In an unusual twist, Pernell Whitaker failed to capture the title of least entertaining contemporary fighter, but still was named the least entertaining of all-time. The voting was simply more spread out here, allowing "Sweet Pea" to outdistance the pack with barely 10 percent of the vote.

1. Pernell Whitaker	*10.7%*
2. Larry Holmes	*7.9%*
3. Hector Camacho	*6.5%*
4. Jimmy Young	*3.3%*
5. Virgil Hill	*2.8%*
6. (tie) Henry Akinwande	*2.3%*
6. (tie) Muhammad Ali	*2.3%*
6. (tie) Michael Nunn	*2.3%*
9. (tie) Butterbean	*1.9%*
9. (tie) Primo Carnera	*1.9%*
9. (tie) Howard Davis	*1.9%*
9. (tie) Lennox Lewis	*1.9%*

Others receiving votes (54.3%): Sammy Angott, Alexis Arguello, Bob Baker, Vaughn Bean, Wilfred Benitez, Nino Benvenuti, Trevor Berbick, Tyrell Biggs, Frans Botha, Riddick Bowe, Jim Braddock, Joe Bugner, Tommy Burns, Chris Byrd, Miguel Canto, Rocky Castellani, Ezzard Charles, Gerrie Coetzee, Tex Cobb, Al Cole, Billy Conn, Gerry Cooney, Hugo Corro, Chuck Davies, Aaron Davis, Oscar De La Hoya, Carlos DeLeon, Jack Dempsey, Massimiliano Duran, Jimmy Ellis, George Foreman, Gene Fullmer, Jack Johnson, Don Jordan, Andrew Golota, Michael Grant, Otis Grant, Naseem Hamed, Ronnie Harris, Kirkland Laing, Jake LaMotta, Scott LeDoux, Benny Leonard, Ray Leonard, Frankie Liles, Sonny Liston, Joe Louis, Benny Lynch, Saoul Mamby, Joey Maxim, Roger Mayweather, Oliver McCall, Wayne McCullough, Pinkey Mitchell, Michael Moorer, Matthew Saad Muhammad, Johnny Nelson, Terry Norris, Ossie Ocasio, Greg Page, Floyd Patterson, Jimmy Paul, Eusebio Pedroza, Paul Pender, Willie Pep, Jerry Quarry, Maxie Rosenbloom, Gianfranco Rosi, Bruce Seldon, Bonecrusher Smith, Lonnie Smith, Leon Spinks, Michael Spinks, Ernie Terrell, Dick Tiger, James Tillis, Tony Tubbs, Gene Tunney, James Warring, Chuck Wepner

WHO IS THE MOST UNDERRATED FIGHTER IN THE WORLD TODAY?

1. Chris Byrd	*7.2%*	*6. (tie) Lennox Lewis*	*3.1%*
2. Bernard Hopkins	*5.4%*	*6. (tie) Shane Mosley*	*3.1%*
3. (tie) Ricardo Lopez	*4.5%*	*6. (tie) Keith Mullings*	*3.1%*
3. (tie) Erik Morales	*4.5%*	*6. (tie) Vince Phillips*	*3.1%*
5. Johnny Tapia	*4.0%*	*6. (tie) Felix Trinidad*	*3.1%*
6. (tie) Andrew Golota	*3.1%*		

Others receiving votes (55.8%): Robert Allen, Tim Austin, Paulie Ayala, Marco Antonio Barrera, Vuyani Bungu, Yory Boy Campas, Oba Carr, Jesus Chavez, Demetrius Davis, Oscar De La Hoya, Lou Del Valle, Larry Donald, Luisito Espinosa, George Foreman, Vernon Forrest, Derrick Gainer, Roberto Garcia, Andrew Golota, Juan Carlos Gomez, Michael Grant, Naseem Hamed, Phillip Holiday, Evander Holyfield, Diobelys Hurtado, Ike Ibeabuchi, Mark Johnson, Reggie Johnson, Steve Johnston, Guillermo Jones, Roy Jones, William Joppy, Hector Lopez, Jose Luis Lopez, Angel Manfredy, Tony Marshall, Floyd Mayweather Jr., Mike McCallum, Bronco McKart, Ray Mercer, Dariusz Michalczewski, Sharmba Mitchell, Brian Nielsen, Fred Norwood, Gerry Penalosa, Frankie Randall, Jose Antonio Rivera, Ivan Robinson, Danny Romero, Lou Savarese, Axel Schulz, Saman Sorjaturong, Antonio Tarver, Ross Thompson, Fabrice Tiozzo, Kostya Tszyu, David Tua, Adan Vargas, Fernando Vargas, Goyo Vargas, Angel Vazquez, Robert West, Pernell Whitaker, Marion Wilson, Winky Wright

Our readers don't find heavyweight Chris Byrd very entertaining, but they do appreciate his skills and feel he deserves more recognition than he receives. This was a category where size appeared to matter, as little guys like Ricardo Lopez, Erik Morales, and Johnny Tapia did fairly well because they are standouts in weight classes that the general public usually ignores.

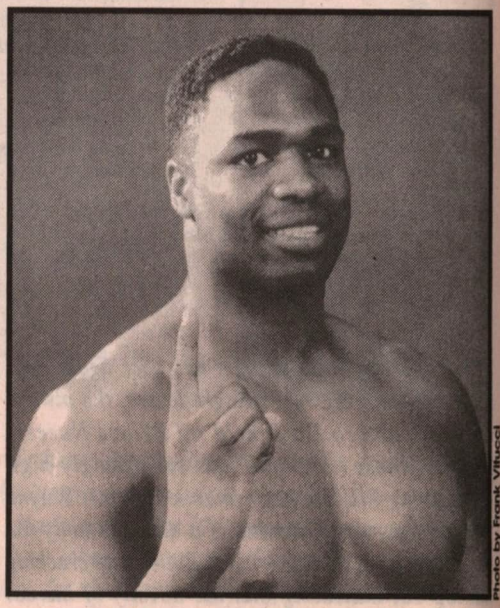


Photo by Frank Vitucci

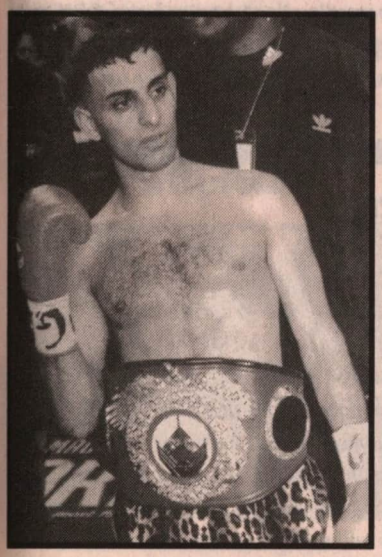
Byrd: Underappreciated heavyweight

WHO IS THE MOST OVERRATED FIGHTER IN THE WORLD TODAY?

1. Naseem Hamed.....25.4%
2. Oscar De La Hoya 19.7%
3. Pernell Whitaker.....7.9%
4. Lennox Lewis 6.1%
5. Roy Jones 4.4%
6. Mike Tyson 3.9%
7. Michael Grant.....2.6%
8. Felix Trinidad.....2.2%
9. (tie) George Foreman.....1.8%
9. (tie) Evander Holyfield.....1.8%
9. (tie) Angel Manfredy 1.8%

Others receiving votes (22.4%): Henry Akinwande, Robert Allen, Vaughn Bean, Frans Botha, Riddick Bowe, Laurent Boudouani, Charles Brewer, Shannon Briggs, Butterbean, Chris Byrd, Hector Camacho, Yory Boy Campas, Julio Cesar Chavez, Larry Donald, Antwun Echols, Dean Francis, Derrick Gainer, Arturo Gatti, Andrew Golota, Herbie Hide, Larry Holmes, Bernard Hopkins, Ike Ibeabuchi, Kirk Johnson, Mark Johnson, Ricardo Lopez, Christy Martin, Imamu Mayfield, Dariusz Michalczewski, Erik Morales, Shane Mosley, Terry Norris, Vinny Pazienza, Ike Quartey, David Reid, Danny Romero, Dana Rosenblatt, Enrique Sanchez, Johnny Tapia, Fabrice Tiozzo, Kostya Tszyu, Fernando Vargas, Arthur Williams

In the early going, it was all Oscar De La Hoya, but Naseem Hamed came on strong in the last couple weeks of voting to claim a crown he'd probably rather not wear. Both fighters are perceived by many fans as products of tremendous hype, but Hamed's lackluster performance against Wayne McCullough in front of a large HBO audience on Halloween night was likely the difference.



Hamed: The people are turning on The Prince

WHO IS THE MOST OVERRATED FIGHTER OF ALL-TIME?

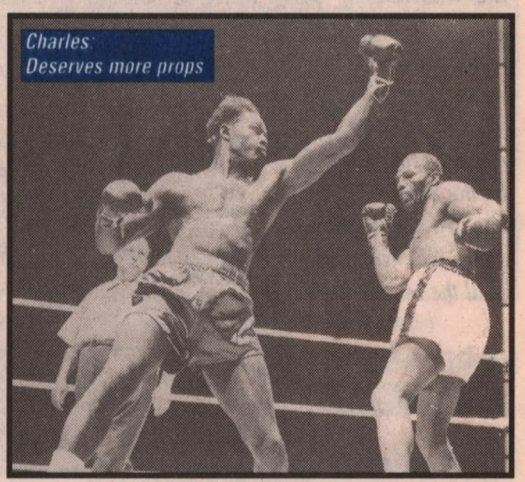
Yes, you voted him the greatest heavyweight ever and the most exciting fighter of all-time, but Muhammad Ali also has his detractors, those people who claim he was given numerous gift decisions in the latter stages of his career and shouldn't be idolized to the level that he is. Many of the votes cast here seemed to be a backlash against phenomenally popular fighters, as great white heavyweights Rocky Marciano and Jack Dempsey as well as Sugar Ray Leonard finished near the top.

1. Muhammad Ali 17.0%
2. Rocky Marciano.....10.7%
3. Sugar Ray Leonard 8.5%
4. Mike Tyson.....7.6%
5. (tie) Jack Dempsey.....3.6%
5. (tie) Larry Holmes 3.6%
7. (tie) Primo Carnera.....3.1%
7. (tie) Julio Cesar Chavez 3.1%
7. (tie) Sonny Liston 3.1%
10. (tie) Mark Breland.....2.2%
10. (tie) Oscar De La Hoya 2.2%

Others receiving votes (35.3%): Henry Akinwande, Harry Arroyo, Max Baer, Riddick Bowe, Hector Camacho, Gerry Cooney, Jim Corbett, Don Curry, Buster Douglas, Roberto Duran, George Foreman, Bob Foster, Joey Gamache, Michael Grant, Rocky Graziano, Naseem Hamed, Thomas Hearns, Evander Holyfield, Bernard Hopkins, James J. Jeffries, Ingemar Johannson, Jack Johnson, Roy Jones, Stanley Ketchel, Jake LaMotta, Benny Leonard, Lennox Lewis, Joe Louis, Benny Lynch, Ray Mancini, Carlos Monzon, Shane Mosley, Ken Norton, Bobo Olson, Floyd Patterson, Willie Pep, Sugar Ray Robinson, Izzy Schwartz, Bruce Seldon, Earnie Shavers, John L. Sullivan, Meldrick Taylor, James Toney, Felix Trinidad, Gene Tunney, Pernell Whitaker, Harry Wills

WHO IS THE MOST UNDERRATED FIGHTER OF ALL-TIME?

Boxing insiders often list Ezzard Charles as one of the greatest fighters, pound-for-pound, in history, and our readers appear to have caught on to the same sentiment, ranking "The Cincinnati Cobra" tops among those deserving of more recognition. The top fighters of the 1980s also did well here, with Larry Holmes and Marvelous Marvin Hagler taking the second and third spots.



1. Ezzard Charles 8.2%
2. Larry Holmes 7.7%
3. Marvin Hagler 6.3%
4. Gene Tunney.....4.3%
5. (tie) Charley Burley 3.9%
5. (tie) Rocky Marciano 3.9%
7. (tie) Evander Holyfield.....3.4%
7. (tie) Mike McCallum 3.4%
9. (tie) Sam Langford 2.4%
9. (tie) Jersey Joe Walcott.....2.4%

Others receiving votes (54.1%): Alexis Arguello, Henry Armstrong, Max Baer, Carmen Basilio, Wilfred Benitez, Michael Bentt, Riddick Bowe, Joe Brown, Chris Byrd, Hector Camacho, Primo Carnera, Marcel Cerdan, Antonio Cervantes, Bobby Chacon, Julio Cesar Chavez, Gerry Cooney, Eddie Cotton, Esteban DeJesus, Jack Dempsey, Jack Dillon, Jimmy Ellis, Bob Foster, Joe Frazier, Khaosai Galaxy, Rodolfo Gonzales, Billy Graham, Thomas Hearns, Virgil Hill, Lloyd Honeyghan, Julian Jackson, Eder Jofre, Ingemar Johannson, Harold Johnson, Jack Johnson, Reggie Johnson, Roy Jones, Kenny Keene, Stanley Ketchel, Ray Leonard, Lennox Lewis, Sonny Liston, Ricardo Lopez, Joe Louis, Joey Maxim, Packey McFarland, Small Montana, Carlos Monzon, Archie Moore, Michael Moorer, Tommy Morrison, Shane Mosley, Keith Mullings, Jose Napoles, Azumah Nelson, Ken Norton, Sean O'Grady, Floyd Patterson, Eusebio Pedroza, Gregorio Peralta, Eddie Perkins, Aaron Pryor, Dwight Qawi, Jerry Quarry, Dana Rosenblatt, Tommy Ryan, Sandy Saddler, Jack Sharkey, Leon Spinks, Michael Spinks, Marlon Starling, Johnny Tapia, Dick Tiger, Tony Tucker, Gil Turner, Mickey Walker, Spider Webb, Pernell Whitaker, Jimmy Wilde, Jess Willard, Jimmy Young, Tony Zale, Daniel Zaragoza

WHO IS BOXING'S HARDEST PUNCHER?

1. Mike Tyson	20.0%
2. Roy Jones	18.7%
3. Felix Trinidad	15.6%
4. Naseem Hamed	10.7%
5. (tie) George Foreman	5.8%
5. (tie) Lennox Lewis	5.8%
7. Kostya Tszyu	2.2%
8. (tie) Jose Luis Lopez	1.8%
8. (tie) Shane Mosley	1.8%
10. (tie) Oscar De La Hoya	1.3%
10. (tie) Antwun Echols	1.3%
10. (tie) David Tua	1.3%
10. (tie) Angel Vazquez	1.3%

Others receiving votes (12.4%): Tim Austin, Marco Antonio Barrera, Shannon Briggs, Butterbean, Andrew Golota, Michael Grant, Evander Holyfield, Bernard Hopkins, Ike Ibeabuchi, Julian Jackson, Phil Jackson, Mark Johnson, Ricardo Lopez, Bronco McKart, Ray Mercer, Dariusz Michalczewski, Fred Norwood, James Page, Ike Quartey, David Reid, Fernando Vargas

You can call him washed-up if you want, but you can't deny Mike Tyson still has his punch. The shot he used to level Frans Botha was one of the best single-punch knockouts we've seen in years, and proved to be the difference in a race Roy Jones was winning until the very end.

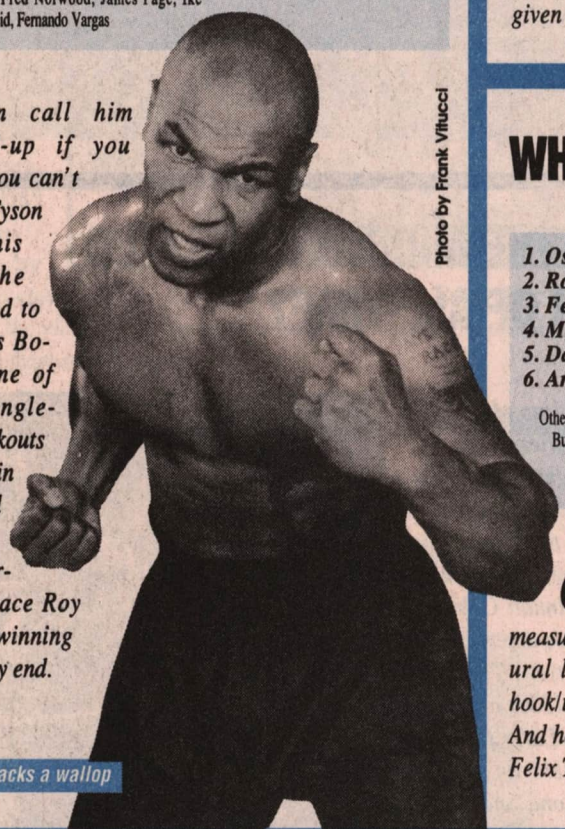


Photo by Frank Vitucci

Tyson: Still packs a wallop

WHO HAS THE BEST JAB?

1. Ike Quartey	30.2%
2. Oscar De La Hoya	17.5%
3. Larry Holmes	9.4%
4. Shane Mosley	6.1%
5. Lennox Lewis	3.8%
6. Pernell Whitaker	3.3%
7. Michael Moorer	2.8%
8. (tie) George Foreman	2.4%
8. (tie) Floyd Mayweather	2.4%
10. (tie) Michael Grant	1.9%
10. (tie) Virgil Hill	1.9%
10. (tie) Roy Jones	1.9%

Others receiving votes (16.4%): Mbulelo Botile, Chris Byrd, Julio Cesar Chavez, Larry Donald, Buster Douglas, Luisito Espinosa, Andrew Golota, Tommy Hearns, Davey Hilton, Evander Holyfield, Ike Ibeabuchi, Mark Johnson, William Joppy, Ricardo Lopez, Angel Manfredy, Dariusz Michalczewski, Michael Nunn, Genaro Rios, Bruce Seldon, Johnny Tapia, Felix Trinidad, Richie Woodhall, Winky Wright

You didn't hear much about the Oscar De La Hoya-Ike Quartey fight being billed as the battle of boxing's two best jabbers, but according to our readers, that's exactly what it was. And though Larry Holmes probably would have outdistanced both of them in this category in his prime, his third-place finish is pretty remarkable given that it's been nearly 15 years since he last held a title.

WHO HAS THE BEST LEFT HOOK?

1. Oscar De La Hoya	21.2%
2. Roy Jones	20.3%
3. Felix Trinidad	12.4%
4. Mike Tyson	7.4%
5. David Tua	5.5%
6. Arturo Gatti	3.7%
7. Naseem Hamed	3.2%
8. Evander Holyfield	2.8%
9. (tie) Marco Antonio Barrera	2.3%
9. (tie) Yory Boy Campas	2.3%
9. (tie) Ricardo Lopez	2.3%
9. (tie) James Page	2.3%

Others receiving votes (14.3%): Lamon Brewster, Orlando Canizales, Israel Cardona, Julio Cesar Chavez, Buster Douglas, Luisito Espinosa, Andrew Golota, Bernard Hopkins, Mark Johnson, Lennox Lewis, Jose Luis Lopez, Keith McKnight, Michael Moorer, Erik Morales, Shane Mosley, Fred Norwood, Lucia Rijker, Johnny Tapia, Kostya Tszyu, Mickey Ward

Oscar De La Hoya may have fallen short in the category that really matters, best pound-for-pound fighter, but he got a measure of revenge on his rival Roy Jones here. De La Hoya, a natural lefty who fights from an orthodox stance, throws a mean hook/uppercut that has repeatedly sliced lips and shredded noses. And he's not the only welterweight champ in the top 10, as IBF titlist Felix Trinidad and WBA boss James Page cracked the list as well.

WHO IS BOXING'S MOST COURAGEOUS FIGHTER?

1. Arturo Gatti	48.4%
2. Evander Holyfield	30.5%
3. Johnny Tapia	2.2%
4. Vinny Pazienza	1.8%
5. (tie) Julio Cesar Chavez	1.3%
5. (tie) Kevin Kelley	1.3%
7. (tie) Roberto Duran	0.9%
7. (tie) Chris Eubank	0.9%
7. (tie) George Foreman	0.9%
7. (tie) Genaro Hernandez	0.9%
7. (tie) Kenny Keene	0.9%
7. (tie) Ray Mercer	0.9%

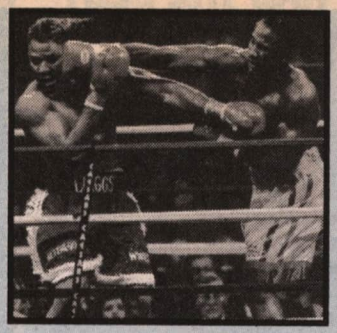
Others receiving votes (9.1%): Tim Austin, Shannon Briggs, Butterbean, Yory Boy Campas, Oscar De La Hoya, Saul Duran, Naseem Hamed, Bernard Hopkins, Angel Manfredy, Kennedy McKinney, Michael Moorer, Azumah Nelson, Genaro Rios, Gabriel Ruelas, Corey Sanders, Saman Sorjaturong, Alex Stewart, Felix Trinidad, Mike Tyson, Marion Wilson

It's a fine line between courage and stupidity, and it certainly takes a little bit of the latter to accept punches as freely as Arturo Gatti does. But his heart is also unquestionable, and his desire to fight on no matter how much abuse he takes has made him a hero who will leave a lasting impression on the sport of boxing. It says something for Gatti to finish ahead of Evander Holyfield, who will surely be remembered as one of the most courageous men ever to lace on gloves.

WHO HAS THE BEST RIGHT HAND?

1. Lennox Lewis 32.9%
2. Roy Jones 13.4%
3. Felix Trinidad 9.7%
4. George Foreman 5.1%
5. Kostya Tszyu 4.6%
6. (tie) Oscar De La Hoya 3.7%
6. (tie) Mike Tyson 3.7%
8. David Reid 3.2%
9. (tie) Jose Luis Lopez 2.3%
9. (tie) Vince Phillips 2.3%

Others receiving votes (19.1%): Henry Akinwande, Riddick Bowe, Shannon Briggs, Yory Boy Campas, Julio Cesar Chavez, Roberto Duran, Luisito Espinosa, Andrew Golota, Michael Grant, Naseem Hamed, Thomas Hearns, Evander Holyfield, Bernard Hopkins, Ike Ibeabuchi, Junior Jones, Ricardo Lopez, Floyd Mayweather, Kennedy McKinney, Erik Morales, Shane Mosley, Keith Mullings, Ike Quartey, Saman Sorjaturong, James Toney, Fernando Vargas, Tim Witherspoon



Lewis: Wrecking-ball right hand

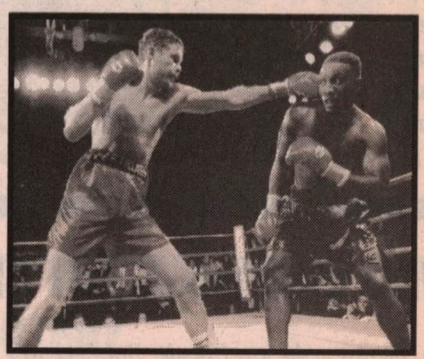
Nearly one-third of our readers believe what Shannon Briggs already knows to be true: Lennox Lewis' right hand is no fun to be introduced to. Some of the other results in this category were more surprising, though, as Roy Jones, Felix Trinidad, and Oscar De La Hoya, three men far better known for their left hooks, finished near the top.

WHO HAS THE BEST DEFENSE?

1. Pernell Whitaker 33.6%
2. Roy Jones 17.7%
3. Chris Byrd 16.8%
4. Oscar De La Hoya 4.1%
5. Johnny Tapia 3.6%
6. Shane Mosley 3.2%
7. George Foreman 2.7%
8. (tie) Naseem Hamed 2.3%
8. (tie) Mark Johnson 2.3%
8. (tie) Floyd Mayweather 2.3%

Others receiving votes (11.4%): Hector Acero-Sanchez, Vuyani Bungu, Hector Camacho, Julio Cesar Chavez, Roberto Duran, Montell Griffin, Genaro Hernandez, Evander Holyfield, Bernard Hopkins, Stevie Johnston, William Joppy, Ricardo Lopez, Angel Manfredy, Keith Mullings, Ike Quartey, Ivan Robinson, Axel Schulz, Felix Trinidad

Even at age 35, "The Pea" is still sweet, as over one-third of the votes cast went to four-division champ Pernell Whitaker. But there's good news for those Sweet Science purists who fear that defense is becoming a forgotten art, as six of the fighters who finished in the top 10 are in their 20s and still on the way up.



Whitaker: Still a tricky target

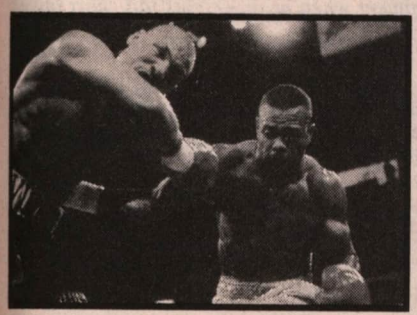
WHO IS THE BEST INFIGHTER?

1. Evander Holyfield 20.3%
2. Mike Tyson 10.1%
3. Julio Cesar Chavez 8.2%
4. Bernard Hopkins 4.8%
5. Shane Mosley 4.3%
6. Johnny Tapia 3.9%
7. (tie) Marco Antonio Barrera 3.4%
7. (tie) Ricardo Lopez 3.4%
9. (tie) John Brown 2.4%
9. (tie) Angel Manfredy 2.4%

Others receiving votes (36.8%): Rosendo Alvarez, Brian Barbosa, Chris Byrd, Joe Calzaghe, Hector Camacho, Yory Boy Campas, Israel Cardona, Hassine Cherifi, Yong Soo Choi, Oscar De La Hoya, Luisito Espinosa, George Foreman, Arturo Gatti, Andrew Golota, Mark Johnson, Reggie Johnson, Steve Johnston, Roy Jones, Jose Luis Lopez, Baby Jake Matlala, Floyd Mayweather, Dariusz Michalczewski, Erik Morales, Keith Mullings, Azumah Nelson, Freddie Norwood, Genaro Rios, James Toney, Felix Trinidad, Kostya Tszyu, David Tua, Fernando Vargas, Pernell Whitaker

The top two finishers, Evander Holyfield and Mike Tyson, are slightly undersized heavyweights who had no choice but to learn how to get inside bigger opponents' reach and break them down at close range. And probably due to the way he convincingly beat Tyson twice, "The Real Deal" garnered more than twice as many votes as the top runner-up.

WHO IS THE BEST BODYPUNCHER?



Jones: Bodyshot left an impression on Hill and readers

1. Roy Jones 16.3%
2. Shane Mosley 14.5%
3. Julio Cesar Chavez 11.8%
4. Yory Boy Campas 10.9%
5. Marco Antonio Barrera 7.3%
6. (tie) Oscar De La Hoya 3.2%
6. (tie) Ricardo Lopez 3.2%
6. (tie) Kostya Tszyu 3.2%
6. (tie) Mike Tyson 3.2%
10. (tie) Andrew Golota 2.7%
10. (tie) Mike McCallum 2.7%

Others receiving votes (21.0%): Charles Brewer, John Brown, Chris Byrd, Michael Carbajal, Israel Cardona, Jesus Chavez, George Foreman, Arturo Gatti, Naseem Hamed, Evander Holyfield, Bernard Hopkins, Mark Johnson, Lennox Lewis, Jose Luis Lopez, Ed Mahone, Angel Manfredy, Dariusz Michalczewski, Erik Morales, Fred Norwood, Vinny Pazienza, Vince Phillips, Ike Quartey, Johnny Tapia, Felix Trinidad, David Tua, Fernando Vargas, Henry Wharton

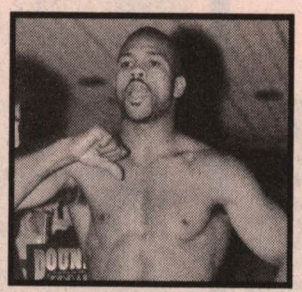
Few results shocked our editorial staff more than this one. Proving how persuasive one lasting image can be (in this case, the lone bodyshot that snapped the ribs of Virgil Hill), Roy Jones, who rarely goes to the body, outdistanced Sugar Shane Mosley, Julio Cesar Chavez, Yory Boy Campas, and Marco Antonio Barrera, all of whom are famous for banging to the flanks to break men in half.

WHO HAS THE FASTEST HANDS?

1. Roy Jones 48.9%
2. Shane Mosley 14.2%
3. Floyd Mayweather 12.4%
4. Oscar De La Hoya 5.7%
5. Naseem Hamed 4.4%
6. Mark Johnson 3.1%
7. (tie) Chris Byrd 1.8%
7. (tie) Johnny Tapia 1.8%
9. (tie) William Joppy 0.9%
9. (tie) Zab Judah 0.9%
9. (tie) Ike Quartey 0.9%
9. (tie) David Reid 0.9%

Others receiving votes (4.1%): Tim Austin, Oba Carr, Phillip Holiday, Angel Manfredy, Erik Morales, Vinny Pazienza, Kostya Tszyu, Mike Tyson, Angel Vazquez

This is what we call a blowout. Of all the categories regarding specific features of modern fighters' arsenals, nobody won so convincingly as Roy Jones did here. He's a 175-pounder with the hand speed of a flyweight, able to bounce triple left hooks off his opponents before they can fire a single punch. But again, the new breed—Shane Mosley, Floyd Mayweather, etc.—took most of the runner-up spots.



Jones: Fleet of hand and foot

WHO HAS THE BEST FOOTWORK?

1. Roy Jones 23.2%
2. Shane Mosley 16.6%
3. Naseem Hamed 13.7%
4. Pernell Whitaker 10.0%
5. Johnny Tapia 6.6%
6. Floyd Mayweather 6.2%
7. Oscar De La Hoya 5.2%
8. Ricardo Lopez 2.8%
9. Felix Trinidad 2.4%
10. (tie) Chris Byrd 1.4%
10. (tie) Mark Johnson 1.4%
10. (tie) Erik Morales 1.4%

Others receiving votes (9.1%): Tim Austin, Vuyani Bungu, Hector Camacho, Oba Carr, Derrick Gainer, Juan Carlos Gomez, Virgil Hill, Evander Holyfield, William Joppy, Zab Judah, Hector Lopez, Tony Marshall, Michael Nunn, Gerry Penalosa, Vince Phillips, Genaro Rios, Ivan Robinson

It was a slightly more competitive race this time, but the result was another win for WBC/ BA light heavyweight champ Roy Jones. Most of the top finishers here also did well in the "best defense" category, which makes sense since proficient footwork is such a key element of sound defense.

WHO HAS THE BEST CHIN?

1. Evander Holyfield 14.5%
2. George Foreman 13.6%
3. Ray Mercer 12.3%
4. Arturo Gatti 11.8%
5. Jose Luis Lopez 9.5%
6. Julio Cesar Chavez 7.7%
7. Johnny Tapia 4.5%
8. Wayne McCullough 3.2%
9. (tie) Miguel Angel Gonzalez 1.8%
9. (tie) Keith Mullings 1.8%
9. (tie) David Tua 1.8%

Others receiving votes (17.5%): Rosendo Alvarez, Vaughn Bean, Frans Botha, Hector Camacho, Yory Boy Campas, Jorge Castro, Oscar De La Hoya, Lou Del Valle, Julio Garcia, Michael Grant, Ike Ibeabuchi, Mark Johnson, Angel Manfredy, Oliver McCall, Kennedy McKinney, Michael Moorer, Erik Morales, Ike Quartey, Axel Schulz, Merqui Sosa, Felix Trinidad, Mike Tyson, Marion Wilson

This was definitely the most competitive race from start to finish, as heavyweights Evander Holyfield, George Foreman, and Ray Mercer traded the lead back and forth right up until the final votes were counted. Arturo Gatti was always in close pursuit, and Jose Luis Lopez entered the race down the stretch thanks to the almost impervious whiskers he displayed in his December '98 bout with James Page.

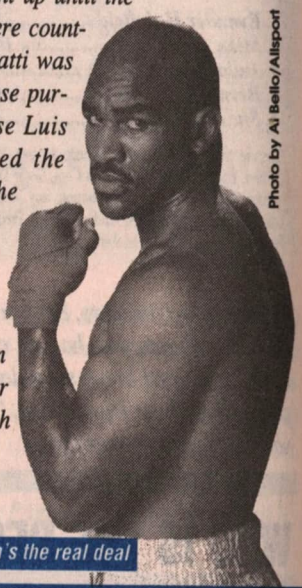
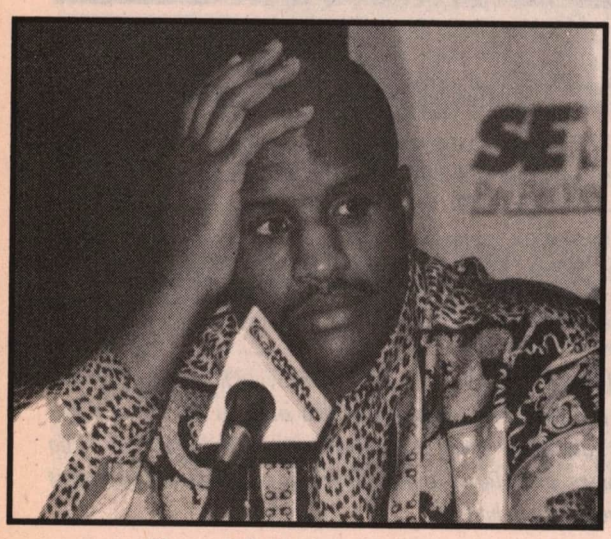


Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Holyfield: Chin's the real deal

WHO IS THE BIGGEST UNDERACHIEVER?

In contrast to the way Evander Holyfield used drive and desire to become an all-time great, one of Holyfield's chief rivals, Michael Moorer, combined tremendous ability with the motivation of a slug to be named boxing's number-one underachiever. The public obviously experiences its greatest disappointment when heavyweights fall short of expectations, as four of the top five finishers were big men.



Moorer: Full potential never realized

1. Michael Moorer 9.8%
2. (tie) Andrew Golota 8.3%
2. (tie) Roy Jones 8.3%
4. Mike Tyson 6.8%
5. Lennox Lewis 6.3%
6. Felix Trinidad 4.4%
7. (tie) James Toney 3.9%
7. (tie) Hector Camacho 3.9%
9. (tie) Danny Romero 3.4%
9. (tie) Oba Carr 3.4%

Others receiving votes (41.5%): Henry Akinwande, Marco Antonio Barrera, Frans Botha, Shannon Briggs, Chris Byrd, Oscar De La Hoya, Larry Donald, Roberto Duran, Jorge Luis Gonzalez, Herol Graham, Montell Griffin, Naseem Hamed, Genaro Hernandez, Larry Holmes, Mark Johnson, Reggie Johnson, Junior Jones, Frank Liles, Jose Luis Lopez, Oliver McCall, Wayne McCullough, Kennedy McKinney, Ray Mercer, Dariusz Michalczewski, Nate Miller, Louis Monaco, Charles Murray, Orzubek Nazarov, Terry Norris, Michael Nunn, Vinny Pazienza, Frankie Randall, David Reid, Robin Reid, Genaro Rios, Ivan Robinson, Jesus Salud, Bruce Seldon, Omar Sheika, Obed Sullivan, Johnny Tapia, Frank Tate, Felix Trinidad, Kostya Tszyu, David Tua, Julio Cesar Vasquez, Pernell Whitaker, Jeremy Williams, Tim Witherspoon

WHO IS THE BIGGEST OVERACHIEVER?

1. Evander Holyfield 36.6%
2. Arturo Gatti 5.2%
3. Keith Mullings 4.7%
4. Vince Phillips.....3.8%
5. (tie) Oscar De La Hoya 3.3%
5. (tie) Naseem Hamed 3.3%
7. (tie) George Foreman.....2.8%
7. (tie) Kenny Keene 2.8%
7. (tie) Vinny Pazienza 2.8%
10. (tie) Angel Manfredy 2.3%
10. (tie) Johnny Tapia 2.3%

Others receiving votes (30.1%): Tim Austin, Laurent Boudouani, Shannon Briggs, Butterbean, Chris Byrd, Julio Cesar Chavez, Hassine Cherifi, Lou Del Valle, Roberto Duran, Luisito Espinosa, Derrick Gainer, Roberto Garcia, Montell Griffin, Tommy Hearns, Virgil Hill, Phillip Holiday, Larry Holmes, Bernard Hopkins, Reggie Johnson, Roy Jones, William Joppy, Lennox Lewis, Jose Luis Lopez, Ricardo Lopez, Jake Matlala, Floyd Mayweather, Wayne McCullough, Kennedy McKinney, Manuel Medina, Ray Mercer, Dariusz Michalczewski, Erik Morales, Shane Mosley, Khalid Rahilou, David Reid, Ivan Robinson, David Tua, Mike Tyson, Fernando Vargas, Wilfredo Vazquez, Richie Woodhall, Pernell Whitaker

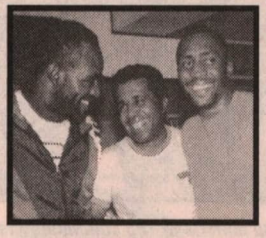
Evander Holyfield started out as a light heavyweight, was given little chance of winning the heavyweight title, was given even less of a chance of winning it back after he lost it to Riddick Bowe, was a 17-1 underdog to win it a third time again Mike Tyson, and now stands alone as the heavyweight of the '90s—and one of the most accomplished big men ever. Holyfield won this category in a breeze by never allowing what the naysayers believed to affect him.

WHO IS THE BEST TRAINER?

1. Emanuel Steward 32.2%
2. Lou Duva.....10.1%
3. Don Turner 9.6%
4. Teddy Atlas 9.1%
5. Eddie Futch.....7.7%
6. Angelo Dundee 5.8%
7. Tommy Brooks.....3.8%
8. (tie) Jesse Reid.....3.4%
8. (tie) Kevin Rooney.....3.4%
10. (tie) George Benton 2.4%
10. (tie) Nacho Beristain 2.4%

Others receiving votes (10.1%): Kenny Adams, Robert Alcazar, Pepe Correa, Miguel Diaz, Joey Garcia, Richie Giachetti, Joe Goossen, Brendan Ingle, Al Mitchell, Jack Mosley, Freddie Roach, Hector Roca

By developing the likes of Thomas Hearns, Mike McCallum, and Michael Moorer, and leading them to titles, Emanuel Steward won the respect of our voters and captured this category convincingly. His recent work with Lennox Lewis, building the Englishman into a far better boxer than he ever used to be, also had to be a major factor in the Kronk Gym master blowing away the competition.



Steward: Flanked by champs Holyfield and Hearns

WHO IS THE WORST TRAINER?

1. Teddy Atlas.....13.3%
2. (tie) Jay Bright.....12.7%
2. (tie) Richie Giachetti 12.7%
4. Lou Duva 10.7%
5. Kevin Rooney.....6.7%
6. Panama Lewis 6.0%
7. Joe Goossen 4.7%
8. Emanuel Steward.....4.0%
9. (tie) Danny Romero Sr. 2.7%
9. (tie) Aaron Snowell 2.7%

Others receiving votes (23.8%): Robert Alcazar, Roger Bloodworth, Al Boulan, Tommy Brooks, Pepe Correa, Lenny DeJesus, Mickey Duff, Angelo Dundee, Horst Ehrmantrout, Eddie Futch, Tommy Gallaher, Pat Goossen, Rudy Hernandez, Ronnie Hughes, Brendan Ingle, Joe Lake, Bryan Lynch, Rock Newman, Cheryl McCullough, Ace Miller, Jimmy Montoya, Billy Moore, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, Freddie Roach, Hector Roca, Bruce Strauss, Don Turner, Tommy Virgets

The rule of thumb here seemed to be that any trainer who ever worked with Mike Tyson was eligible to finish near the top. Teddy Atlas, Jay Bright, and Richie Giachetti have all spent time in Tyson's corner (though Atlas split with him before Iron Mike turned pro), as did other top runners-up Kevin Rooney and Aaron Snowell.

WHO IS THE BEST PROMOTER?

1. Don King 38.9%
2. Top Rank 30.5%
3. Main Events 12.3%
4. Cedric Kushner 6.9%
5. Frank Warren 3.0%
6. Russell Peltz 2.5%
7. America Presents 2.0%
8. (tie) Tony Holden.....1.0%
8. (tie) Art Pellulo.....1.0%
8. (tie) Tex Rickard 1.0%

Others receiving votes (0.9%): Magic Johnson, Murad Muhammad

It wasn't unanimous, but it was magnanimous, as Don King scored a reasonably close victory over Bob Arum's Top Rank. Notable is the way Tex Rickard, who died 70 years ago, made the top 10. (Technically, we shouldn't have counted votes for him, but they were so flabbergasting we decided to include them for the purpose of amusement.)

King: The best of times, the worst of crimes

WHO IS THE WORST PROMOTER?

1. Don King 66.8%
2. Top Rank 11.4%
3. Cedric Kushner 6.2%
4. Butch Lewis 4.1%
5. (tie) America Presents 1.6%
5. (tie) Main Events 1.6%
7. (tie) AB Stars 1.0%
7. (tie) Don Elbaum 1.0%
7. (tie) M & M Sports 1.0%
7. (tie) Russell Peltz 1.0%
7. (tie) Frank Warren 1.0%

Others receiving votes (3.3%): Mike Acri, BAM Promotions, Tony Curtis, Mickey Duff, Forum Boxing, Tex Rickard

This one was a much easier victory for Don King. In fact, a strange phenomenon pervaded the responses we received, as quite a few readers chose DK as both the best and worst promoter, showing how important being high-profile is in some of these races.

WHO IS THE BEST REFEREE?

1. Mills Lane 63.4%
2. Arthur Mercante Sr. 6.3%
3. (tie) Joe Cortez 5.4%
3. (tie) Richard Steele 5.4%
5. Mitch Halpern.....4.5%
6. Steve Smoger.....4.0%
7. (tie) Frank Cappuccino....1.8%
7. (tie) Arthur Mercante Jr...1.8%
9. (tie) Wayne Kelly 0.9%
9. (tie) Larry O'Connell.....0.9%
9. (tie) Fred Steinwinder 0.9%

Others receiving votes (4.7%): Elmo Adolph, Rudy Battle, Laurence Cole, Benji Estevez, Larry Hazzard, Gene LeBell, Jay Nady, Tony Orlando, Carlos Padilla, Tony Perez, Mickey Vann

The last major fight Mills Lane refereed, the first Bernard Hopkins-Robert Allen clash, was a no-contest. This poll here was just plain no-contest. Lane, who retired in the middle of the voting process, became tremendously well-known following the Mike Tyson ear bite, but his competent, take-charge approach to officiating was every bit as big a factor here as his fame.

WHO IS THE WORST REFEREE?

1. Richard Steele 40.9%
2. Joe Cortez 6.1%
3. (tie) Rudy Battle 5.5%
3. (tie) Frank Cappuccino ..5.5%
3. (tie) Mills Lane 5.5%
6. Arthur Mercante Sr. ..4.9%
7. Tony Perez 4.3%
8. James Condon 3.7%
9. (tie) Eddie Cotton.....3.0%
9. (tie) Mitch Halpern 3.0%
9. (tie) Carlos Padilla.....3.0%

Others receiving votes (14.6%): Elmo Adolph, Dave Barry, Ken Bayliss, Kenny Chevalier, Laurence Cole, Jesus Colis, James Cotton, Toby Gibson, Lou Gomez, Larry Hazzard, Arthur Mercante Jr., Randy Neuman, Tony Orlando, Larry Rosadia, Steve Smoger

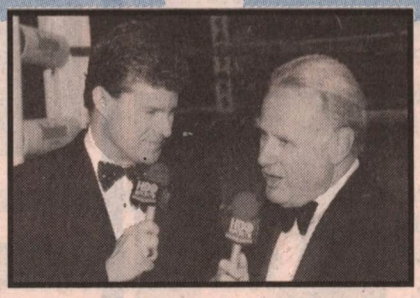
Our readers apparently don't like to forgive and forget, just like the thousands of fans who still boo Richard Steele every time he refs a fight. It's been nearly a decade since Steele called for controversial stoppages in Julio Cesar Chavez-Meldrick Taylor I and Mike Tyson-Razor Ruddock I, but he remains by far the most disliked official in the game.

WHO IS THE BEST BLOW-BY-BLOW COMMENTATOR?

1. Jim Lampley 52.9%
2. Al Bernstein 12.2%
3. Al Albert 9.9%
4. Steve Albert.....4.7%
5. Tim Ryan.....2.9%
6. (tie) Bob Papa.....2.3%
6. (tie) Barry Tompkins 2.3%
8. (tie) Marv Albert.....1.7%
8. (tie) Don Dunphy 1.7%
8. (tie) Tom Kelly 1.7%
8. (tie) Bob Sheridan 1.7%

Others receiving votes (6.0%): Antonio Andere, Jean-Claude Bouttier, Al Braverman, Harry Carpenter, Howard Cosell, Ian Darke, Luis Moreno, Alex Wallau

Being the blow-by-blow man for the most popular boxing network (as you'll find out a little further into the poll) never hurts, but Jim Lampley's intelligent, professional, and appropriately dramatic style also helped him get the nod here. It's intriguing to note the second-place finish of Al Bernstein, who no longer does fight commentary for ESPN, and was usually more of a color man anyway back when he did.



Lampley and Merchant: Top commentators

WHO IS THE BEST COLOR COMMENTATOR?

1. Larry Merchant 21.0%
2. Sean O'Grady 20.5%
3. Roy Jones.....12.5%
4. George Foreman 11.5%
5. Al Bernstein 9.5%
6. Bobby Czyz.....8.0%
7. Gil Clancy 5.5%
8. Ferdie Pacheco 4.0%
9. Teddy Atlas 3.5%
10. Ray Leonard 1.5%

Others receiving votes (2.5%): Dave Bontempo, Max Kellerman, Harold Lederman, Rich Marotta, Jim Watt

In an extremely tight balloting, HBO's Larry Merchant edged out former USA color man Sean O'Grady, taking the lead for the last time on the final day of voting. It was an unlikely battle between two commentators whose styles couldn't be more dissimilar, but O'Grady still ended ups tops among pugs-turned-announcers, beating out Roy Jones, George Foreman, and Bobby Czyz.

WHO IS THE WORST BLOW-BY-BLOW COMMENTATOR?

1. (tie) Steve Albert....23.8%
1. (tie) Jim Lampley ..23.8%
3. Bob Papa 14.9%
4. Al Albert 10.9%
5. Al Bernstein 6.9%
6. Dan Dierdorf.....4.0%
7. (tie) Howard Cosell.....3.0%
7. (tie) Bob Sheridan.....3.0%
7. (tie) Barry Tompkins.....3.0%
10. Alex Wallau.....2.0%

Others receiving votes (4.7%): Gil Clancy, Reg Gutteridge, Glen McCroy, Tim Ryan

Proving how one vote can make all the difference in THE RING Readers' Poll, Showtime's Steve Albert and HBO's Jim Lampley ended up in a dead heat in this category nobody wants to win. Hopefully it will soften the blow for both men to know they're sharing this award.

WHO IS THE WORST COLOR COMMENTATOR?

1. Larry Merchant.....21.8%
2. (tie) George Foreman 19.6%
2. (tie) Ferdie Pacheco 19.6%
4. Roy Jones 10.8%
5. (tie) Bobby Czyz.....5.6%
5. (tie) Sean O'Grady 5.6%
7. Teddy Atlas 3.9%
8. Al Bernstein 3.3%
9. Ray Leonard 2.2%
10. (tie) Rich Marotta.....1.1%
10. (tie) Max Kellerman ..1.1%
10. (tie) Gil Clancy 1.1%

Others receiving votes (4.3%): Duane Bobick, Dan Dierdorf, Dan Goossen, Tom Kelly, Harold Lederman, Carlos Palomino, Arnie Rosenthal

Larry Merchant will have to take the good with the bad, as many view him as more pretentious than insightful, and voted him their least favorite color man. It's worth noting that a handful of votes came in for ESPN2's Max Kellerman, who has drawn the ire of a few readers, but is really a studio analyst and not a fight commentator.

WHO IS THE BEST RING ANNOUNCER?

1. Michael Buffer	63.5%
2. Jimmy Lennon Jr.	27.9%
3. Mark Beiro	6.1%
4. Ed Derian	2.0%
5. Chuck Hull	0.5%

A lot of the votes that came in for Michael Buffer were from people who didn't know his name and just called him the "ready to rumble guy," indicating how much that signature phrase has defined his identity. But it's made him famous, and helped him to win this vote comfortably. You'll notice there are no runners-up listed here, as only five different ring announcers received votes.

Photo by Frank Vitucci

Buffer: Ready to win (and lose) the poll

WHO IS THE WORST RING ANNOUNCER?

1. Michael Buffer	31.5%
2. (tie) Mark Beiro	21.3%
2. (tie) Jimmy Lennon Jr.	21.3%
4. Ed Derian	13.9%
5. Discombobulating Jones	4.6%

Others receiving votes (7.4%): Danny Campbell, John Hegre, Chuck Hull, Frank Shane, Jay Jay Wright

Being the most recognizable ring announcer also has its drawbacks, as Michael Buffer also claimed top honors here. Still, his ratio of positive votes to negative ones was far better than that of top runners up Jimmy Lennon Jr., Mark Beiro, and Ed Derian.

WHAT IS THE BEST TELEVISION NETWORK ON WHICH TO WATCH BOXING?

1. HBO	72.6%	6. CBS	1.4%
2. ESPN2	11.4%	7. (tie) ABC	0.9%
3. USA	5.0%	7. (tie) FOX	0.9%
4. Showtime	2.2%	7. (tie) Telemundo	0.9%
5. Sky-TV	1.8%	7. (tie) TVKO	0.9%

Others receiving votes (2.0%): Canal+, ESPN Classic, Eurosport, Univision

WHAT IS THE WORST TELEVISION NETWORK ON WHICH TO WATCH BOXING?

1. Showtime	32.9%	6. HBO	5.5%
2. ESPN2	17.7%	7. NBC	4.3%
3. FOX	13.4%	8. CBS	2.4%
4. ABC	7.3%	9. (tie) MSG	1.8%
5. USA	6.1%	9. (tie) Univision	1.8%

Others receiving votes (6.8%): BBC, Galavision, ITV, NESN, SET, Sky-TV, Telemundo, TNT, USSB

The readers do seem to generally like HBO's commentators and production, but to win this convincingly, it must be the quality of its fights shining through. With such stars as Oscar De La Hoya, Roy Jones, and Lennox Lewis appearing regularly on HBO ***Championship Boxing****, and exciting competitors like Arturo Gatti, Shane Mosley, and Fernando Vargas lighting up* ***Boxing After Dark****, it's no wonder the pay-cable giant finished so far ahead of the pack.*

Photo by Marty Rosengarten

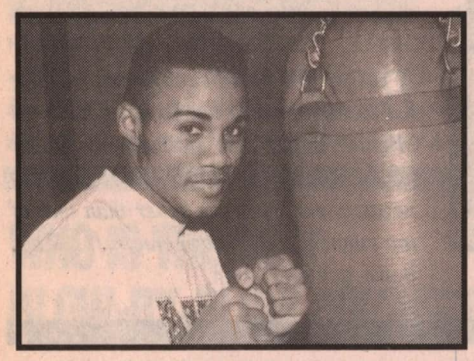
HBO's Lou DiBella is smiling wider than Showtime's Jay Larkin

The Readers' Poll was not friendly to the folks at Showtime, which may partially be a reflection on the anti-Don King stance many of our readers took. But Showtime did feature a few excellent fights late in '98, such as Ricardo Lopez vs. Rosendo Alvarez II and James Page vs. Jose Luis Lopez, indicating they may be a network on the rise even if fans aren't very high on them at the moment.

WHAT POTENTIAL MATCH WOULD YOU MOST LIKE TO SEE?

1. Oscar De La Hoya vs. Felix Trinidad	*41.2%*
2. Evander Holyfield vs. Lennox Lewis	*10.1%*
3. (tie) Roy Jones vs. Holyfield	*4.4%*
3. (tie) Floyd Mayweather vs. Shane Mosley	*4.4%*
5. Ike Quartey vs. Trinidad	*3.1%*
6. Naseem Hamed vs. Mayweather	*2.2%*
7. (tie) Marco Antonio Barrera vs. Hamed	*1.8%*
7. (tie) De La Hoya vs. Jose Luis Lopez	*1.8%*
7. (tie) Andrew Golota vs. Mike Tyson	*1.8%*
7. (tie) Jones vs. Dariusz Michalczewski	*1.8%*

Others receiving votes (27.4%): Barrera vs. Erik Morales, Cesar Bazan vs. Mosley, Butterbean vs. Tyson, Chris Byrd vs. Michael Grant, Byrd vs. Tyson, Steve Collins vs. Jones, De La Hoya vs. Jones, De La Hoya vs. Mosley, De La Hoya vs. Keith Mullings, De La Hoya vs. Quartey, De La Hoya vs. David Reid, De La Hoya vs. Fernando Vargas, Luisito Espinosa vs. Hamed, George Foreman vs. Larry Holmes, Foreman vs. Tyson, Arturo Gatti vs. Ivan Robinson, Gatti vs. Kostya Tszyu, Golota vs. Grant, Miguel Angel Gonzalez vs. Tszyu, Grant vs. Ike Ibeabuchi, Grant vs. Lewis, Hamed vs. Manfredy, Hamed vs. Morales, Hamed vs. Fred Norwood, Hamed vs. Angel Vazquez, Holyfield vs. Tyson, Bernard Hopkins vs. Jones, Mark Johnson vs. Johnny Tapia, Stevie Johnston vs. Mosley, Jones vs. Fabrice Tiozzo, Jones vs. Tyson, Lewis vs. Tyson, Lopez vs. Trinidad, Lopez vs. Pernell Whitaker, Manfredy vs. Mayweather, Manfredy vs. Mosley, Christy Martin vs. Lucia Rijker, Mayweather vs. Norwood, Ray Mercer vs. David Tua, Sharmba Mitchell vs. Vince Phillips, Mosley vs. Phillips, Mosley vs. Tszyu, Mullings vs. Reid, Reid vs. Vargas, Trinidad vs. Whitaker, Tua vs. Tyson



Trinidad-De La Hoya: Fans demand welter unification

Don, Bob, are you listening? By a resounding margin, Oscar De La Hoya vs. Felix Trinidad is the fight boxing fans are salivating over the most (prior to knowing the outcomes of both men's February title defenses), which should be all the information you need to know this contest demands to be made. Among the runners-up, the hottest finisher was Shane Mosley vs. Floyd Mayweather, which really picked up steam after Mayweather's kayo of Angel Manfredy.

WHAT IS THE MOST COMPETITIVE DIVISION IN BOXING TODAY?

1. Welterweight	*76.8%*
2. Heavyweight	*5.7%*
3. Junior Featherweight	*4.4%*
4. Lightweight	*3.9%*
5. Featherweight	*3.5%*

Others receiving votes (5.7%): Super Middleweight, Middleweight, Junior Middleweight, Junior Welterweight, Junior Lightweight, Flyweight

The word "competitive" can be interpreted several different ways. Does it mean the division that has recently boasted the most exciting fights? Or the division with the deepest talent pool? Or the division with the strongest champions? It seems the last definition is the one most readers went with, as the welterweights, stocked with exceptional star power at the top, won this poll in a blowout.

WHAT IS THE BEST VENUE IN THE WORLD TODAY AT WHICH TO WATCH A FIGHT?

1. Blue Horizon	*34.2%*
2. Madison Square Garden	*30.9%*
3. MGM Grand	*11.2%*
4. Caesars Palace	*8.6%*
5. A.C. Boardwalk Conv. Center	*2.0%*

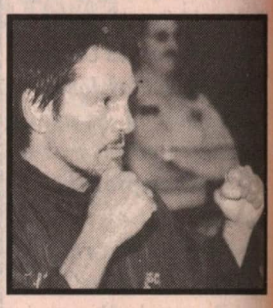
Others receiving votes (13.1%): Arena Coliseo of Mexico City, Arrowhead Pond, Boise Centre on the Grove, Foxwoods, Great Western Forum, King's Hall (Belfast), L.A. Forum, Louisville Gardens, Mandalay Bay, Mohegan Sun, Newport (California) Marriott, Olympic Auditorium, Roseland Ballroom, Rosemont Horizon, Thomas & Mack Center, Toronto SkyDome, Wembley Arena

Many of you voted for your favorite local arena, which is why there were so many random also-rans that received just a vote or two. But the more well-known buildings dominated at the top, with the intimacy of Philadelphia's Blue Horizon winning out. There were fewer votes counted here than in most other categories, as a great number of readers simply wrote "my living room" or admitted that they didn't know what a "venue" was.

WHO IS THE ACTIVE FIGHTER YOU WOULD MOST LIKE TO SEE RETIRE?

1. Roberto Duran	*24.4%*	*6. Terry Norris*	*6.8%*
2. George Foreman	*15.0%*	*7. Evander Holyfield*	*6.4%*
3. Julio Cesar Chavez	*13.2%*	*8. Hector Camacho*	*3.0%*
4. Larry Holmes	*12.8%*	*9. Arturo Gatti*	*2.1%*
5. Thomas Hearns	*7.3%*	*10. Pernell Whitaker*	*1.7%*

Others receiving votes (7.3%): Iran Barkley, Vaughn Bean, Simon Brown, Oscar De La Hoya, Andrew Golota, Roy Jones, Kevin Kelley, Michael Moorer, Vinny Pazienza, Rafael Ruelas, Mike Tyson, Jorge Vaca, Tim Witherspoon

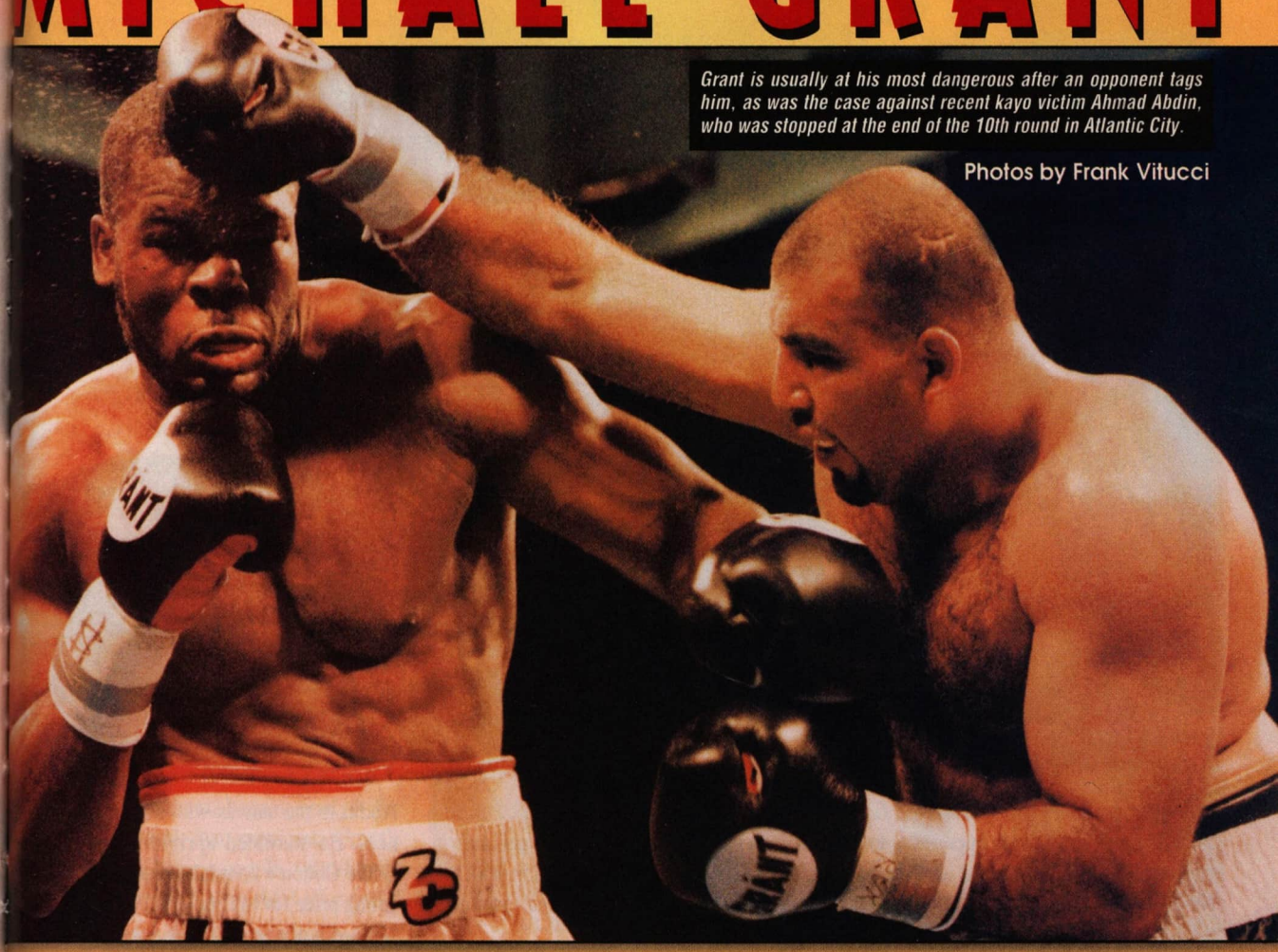


Duran: Hopefully, he's hanging 'em up

As William Joppy teed off on the legendary Roberto Duran last August, nearly everyone watching prayed that the end of the fight would also be the end of Duran's career. In fact, the first six spots were all taken by aging ex-champs, with Duran leading the way. Farther down, however, some more surprising names, like Evander Holyfield and Arturo Gatti worked their way in, and Hector Camacho and Pernell Whitaker gained votes presumably because of the way some fans detest watching them.

(Continued on page 60)

MICHAEL GRANT



Grant is usually at his most dangerous after an opponent tags him, as was the case against recent kayo victim Ahmad Abdin, who was stopped at the end of the 10th round in Atlantic City.

Photos by Frank Vitucci

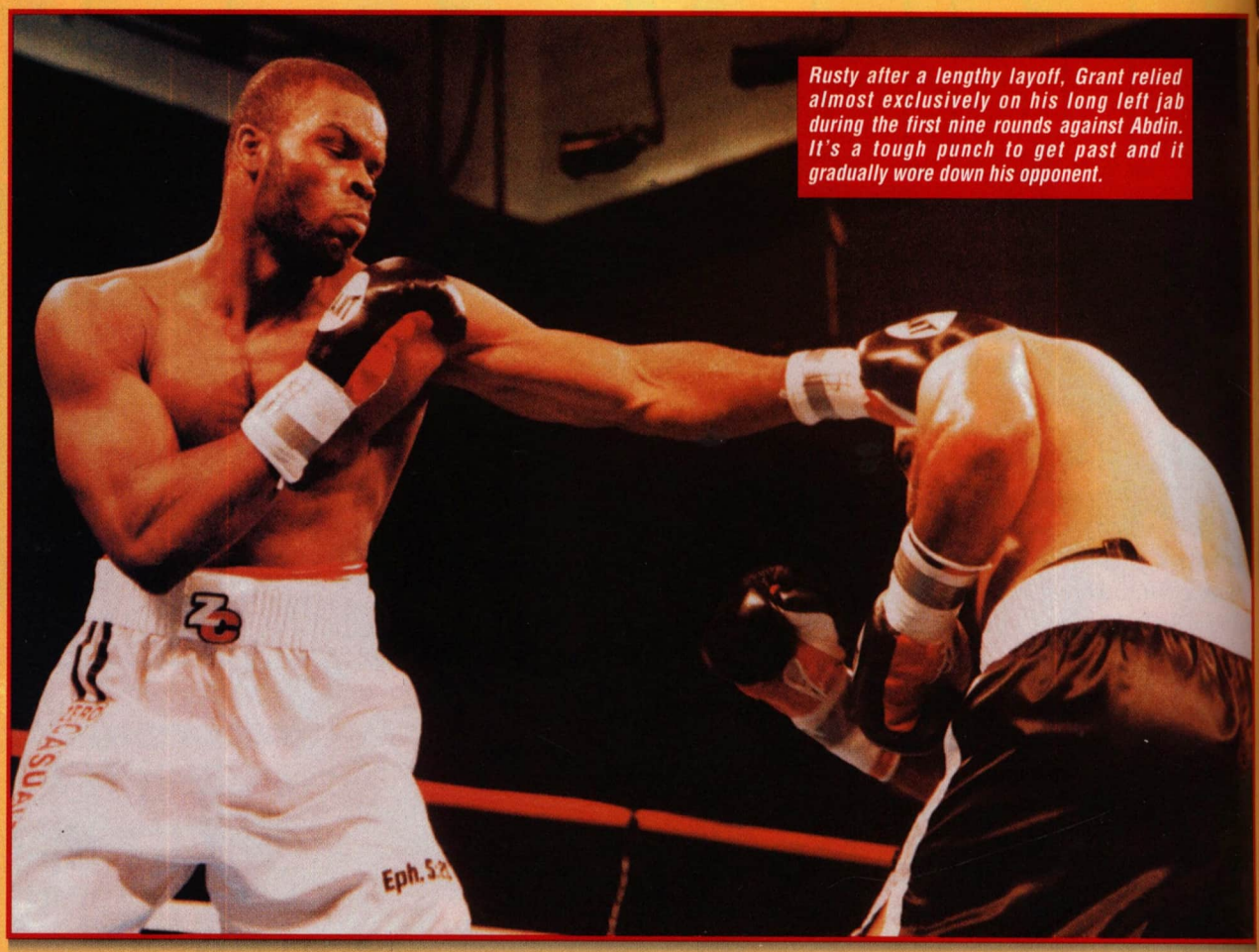
WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO BRING THE ANIMAL OUT?

By Nigel Collins

You get a glimpse of all that Michael Grant can be the instant the other guy lands a good punch. That's when the massive 6'7", 250-pound heavyweight is at his most lethal. No longer the college-athlete-turned boxer, he's instantaneously transformed into a lethal fighting machine capable of inflicting the sort of punishment that legends are made of. The trouble is that these spontaneous bursts of skilled savagery have been both brief and pretty much restricted to the rare occasion when Grant is stung by a punch. Except for those instances, he's fought without the passion and intensity usually associated with heavyweight greatness. Whether or not this will turn out to be a fatal flaw in the long run remains to be seen, but it's a characteristic that Grant readily acknowledges.

"You know what? Everyone sees that. They tell me that every time," said Grant a few days after his 10th-round knockout of former sparring partner Ahmad Abdin, January 30, in Atlantic City. "As a matter of fact, I have a friend who took a look at the Abdin fight, and he came to me and said, 'Dude, when you get hit, you're like an animal. But other than that, you kinda lay back and try to beat him up with your left hand. But as soon as he hit you, man, you just went crazy.'"

His friend's assessment is dead on; most of the time Grant fights what some



Rusty after a lengthy layoff, Grant relied almost exclusively on his long left jab during the first nine rounds against Abdin. It's a tough punch to get past and it gradually wore down his opponent.

call a "contained" or "measured" fight. They say he "breaks" his opponents down. And these can be good and useful things for any fighter. But one gets the feeling that if Grant is going to be the next dominant heavyweight, he'll have to find another way of activating his mean streak. Having to wait until somebody drills you before shifting into top gear isn't the best fight plan, especially at the top level. Even against the modest Abdin, Grant emerged with his left eye a mere slit, thanks to a badly swollen upper-cheek. Besides, heavyweight legends have never been of the I-won't-bother-you-if-you-don't-bother-me mentality. Could it be that Grant, a Christian family man who came to the hardest of sports relatively late in his life, is too nice of a guy to go for the jugular?

"That plays a part," conceded Grant, a genuine gentle giant outside of the ring. "It depends on the opponent. If he comes at me lackluster, I just can't get hungry and go out there and kill him. But if he tags me, then death becomes him."

But what happens when Grant steps in with the division elite? Couldn't a big puncher jump all over him and catch him cold before he had a chance to retaliate?

"If someone comes to the ring with that attitude, I can't do nothing but get up for it," he assured.

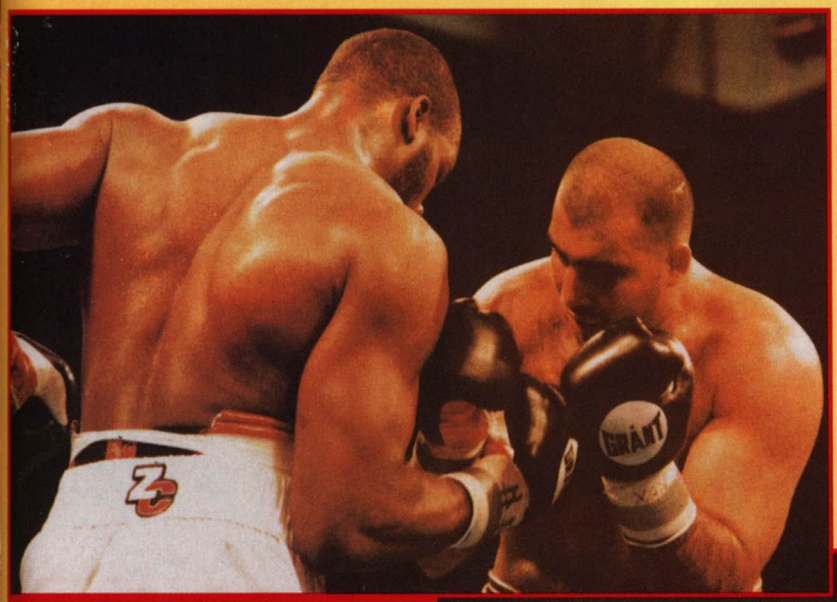
Abdin, a burly Syrian brawler now living in Houston, had the attitude, but lacked the fighting wherewithal to do much about it. He barreled forward from the start, usually straight into Grant's lamppost left. When you get right down to it, Abdin was more irritating than threatening, even when he managed to land a clean shot.

"I thought it was going to be tougher," said Grant. "When we sparred, we usually had aggressive sessions where we'd go to the body and see who could stay in the ring the longest. We would go toe-to-toe, throwing punches, throwing punches. When I tried to do that in the fight, he collapsed."

That was in the ninth round, after Abdin had been methodically worn down by both his own efforts and Grant's bruising jab. Shortly before the round-ending bell, Grant stepped inside with a ripping right uppercut to the gut that crumpled Abdin to the canvas with startling suddenness. He stumbled upright inside referee Eddie Cotton's count, but soon paid a punishing price for his bravery.

Suddenly in do-or-die mode, Abdin lashed out and landed a pretty decent right in the 10th. In retrospect, Abdin probably wishes he'd taken a more judicious approach. A split second after his punch connected, a counter right from Grant cut his feet out from under him and deposited him back on the floor with a resounding thud. Again, he struggled up, but it was to no avail. Grant bludgeoned him back down a third time at the close of the round, and although Abdin, 25-2-3 (11), staggered to his feet and back to his corner, the bout was mercifully terminated.

For Grant, 29-0 (21), it was a strong finish to what had been, up until the ninth round, a fairly prosaic performance. Still, you have to take into consideration the fact that he'd been sidelined for almost eight months due to a bout with hepatitis and that Abdin had never been stopped before. It was a showing that probably impressed boxing insiders and hardcore fans more



It looked like Abdin might last the 12-round distance until Grant began digging hard to the body in the ninth round (above). Just before the bell, he dropped his former sparring partner with a right to the midsection for the first of three knockdowns (right).

ble size. "He's so big, the other guy has to fight twice as hard," observed Grant's trainer, Don Turner. And he's right. Never has there been a heavyweight who combined size and athletic ability to such an impressive degree. The majority of oversized heavyweights have been clumsy Carnera-like figures unable to get out of their own way. Even latter-day leviathans such as Lennox Lewis and Riddick Bowe have not combined the size and mobility of Grant. And George Foreman? Well, Ali didn't call him "The Mummy" for nothing. But the very advantage that Grant's size gives him has also enabled him to get by

(Continued on page 57)

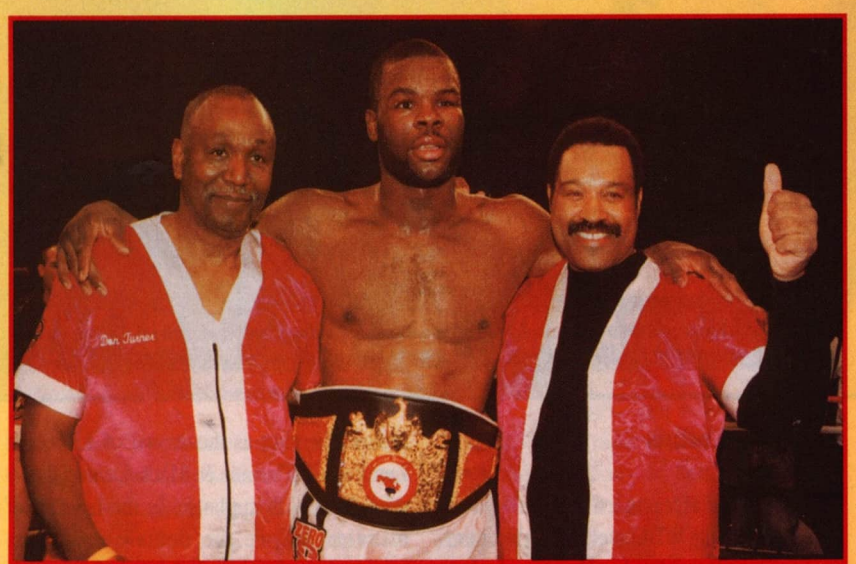
than it did the masses necessary to turn Grant into a pay-per-view superstar.

"His performance wasn't sensational in such a way that everybody goes, 'Wow! He knocked him out with one punch,'" said Larry Merchant, boxing analyst for HBO, the network that broadcasts Grant's fights. "But to boxing people, what he did was very impressive, very solid all-round."

But is "solid all-round" enough to make Grant the next great heavyweight? Don't all the very best fighters have a spark of passion, an inner-fire that powers their success?

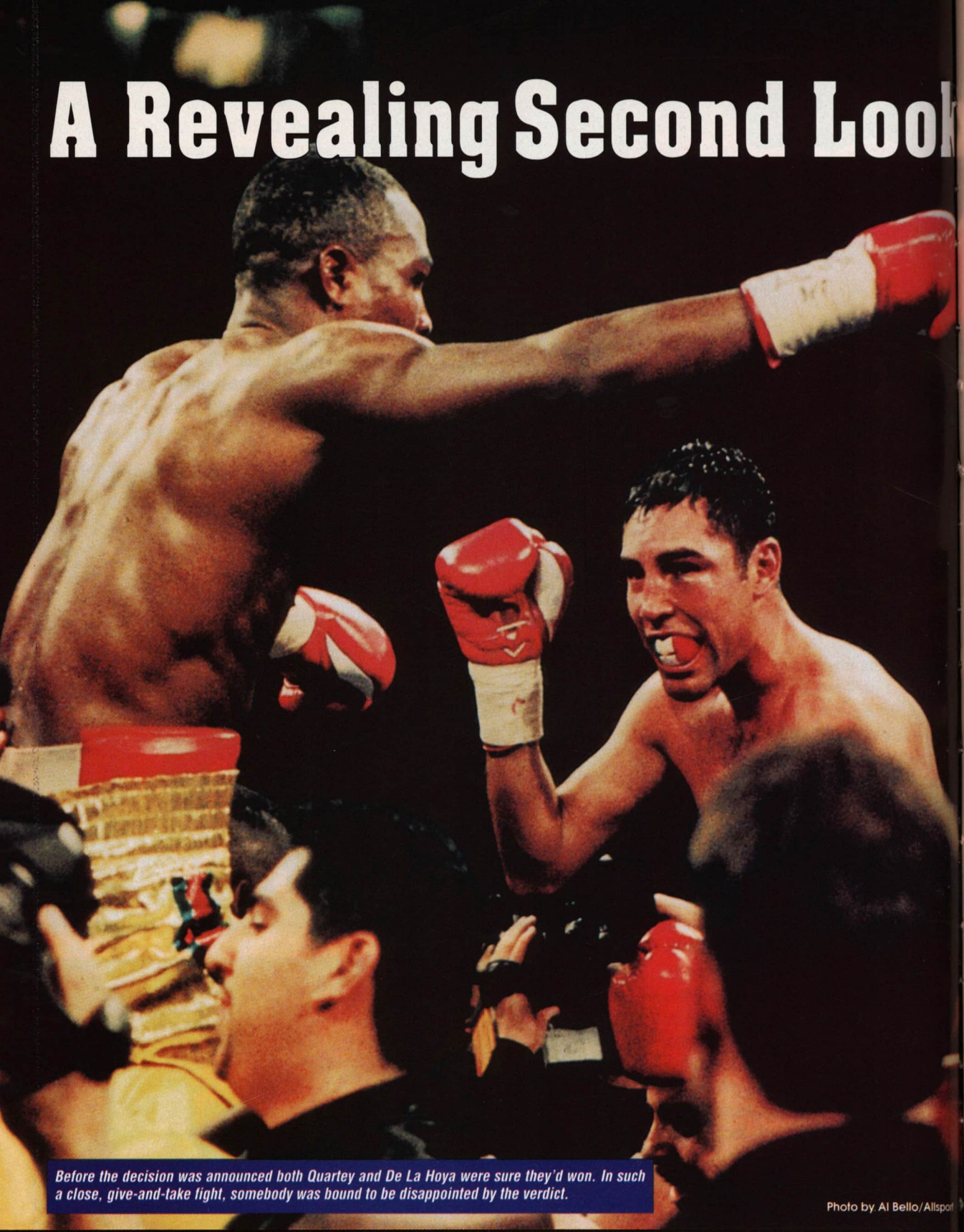
"Michael doesn't fight without passion," insisted Craig Hamilton, Grant's manager. "But for a young guy, he's very emotionally under control. Mike is steady. He lives his life that way, and he's like that in the ring. He doesn't have a lot of highs or lows. When he's clipped, there's no question that he picks it up. But I think what we're seeing there is the great competitiveness urge in Michael. He never wants to let anybody get over on him. And if he does get hit, that comes out. But I don't think anybody can fight at that level for 12 rounds. His idea is to fight under control, keep himself together, and take a guy down. It's consistent with the kind of person Mike is."

Part of the equation is Grant's formida-



Following his 29th straight pro victory, Grant posed with chief trainer Don Turner and assistant trainer Jack Mosley, who joined the corner after Tommy Brooks left to work with Mike Tyson.

A Revealing Second Look



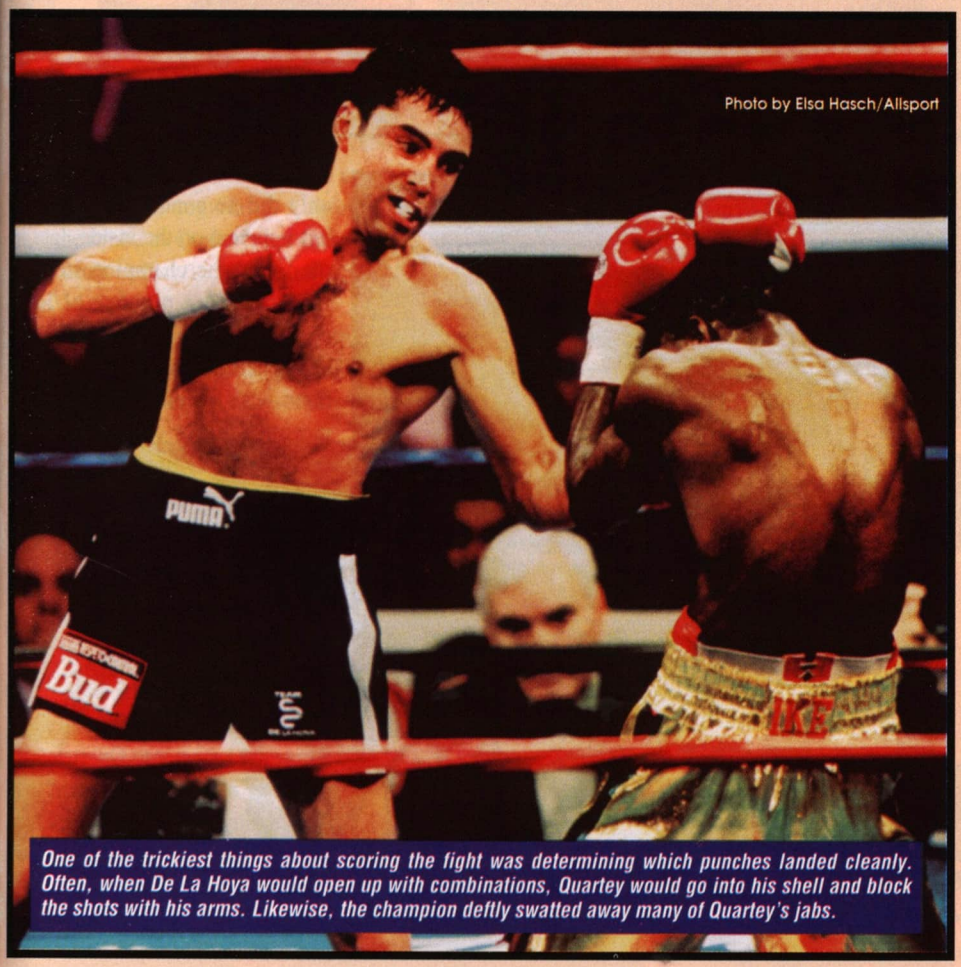
Before the decision was announced both Quartey and De La Hoya were sure they'd won. In such a close, give-and-take fight, somebody was bound to be disappointed by the verdict.

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

By Nigel Collins

Seconds after the final bell, both defending WBC welterweight champion Oscar De La Hoya and challenger Ike Quartey were hoisted onto the shoulders of their cornermen and paraded around the ring as the crowd of 13,405 at Las Vegas' Thomas & Mack Center showered them with applause. In the handful of minutes before the decision was announced, both men, despite their swollen and distorted countenances, were winners. They'd given us 12 riveting rounds of world-class boxing, and, as in all close fights, both men were absolutely positive they had won. But for Quartey, the elation ended the instant ring announcer Michael Buffer read the split decision in De La Hoya's favor. And as "The Golden Boy" jumped for joy and grinned from ear to ear,

WHO REALLY WON THE DE LA HOYA-QUARTEY FIGHT?



One of the trickiest things about scoring the fight was determining which punches landed cleanly. Often, when De La Hoya would open up with combinations, Quartey would go into his shell and block the shots with his arms. Likewise, the champion deftly swatted away many of Quartey's jabs.

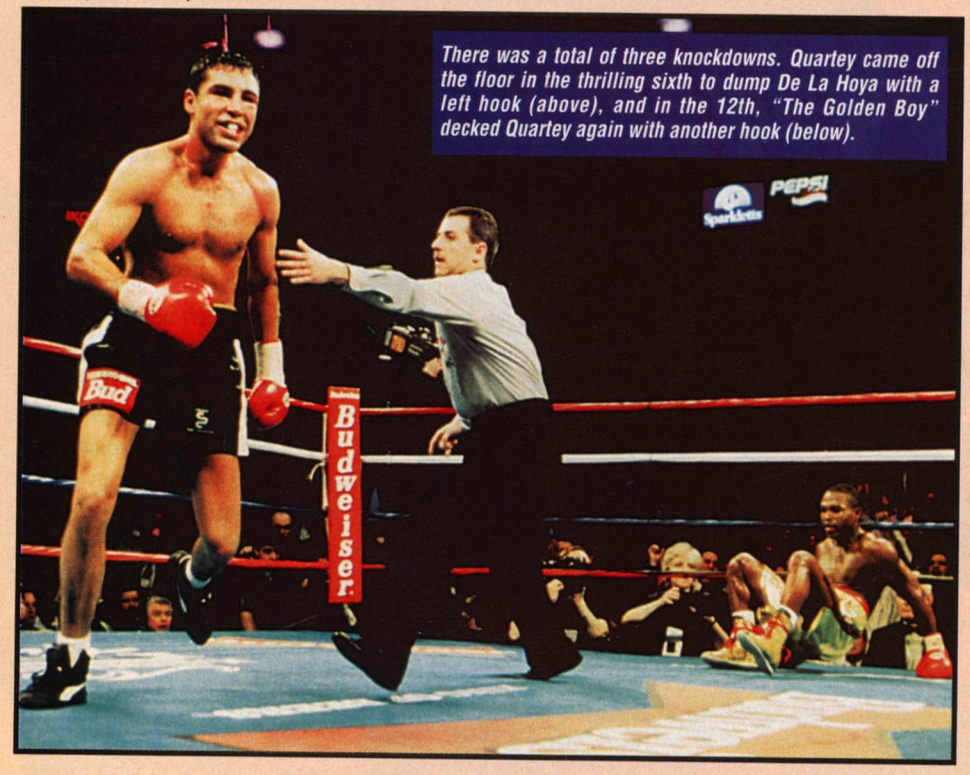
a scowl crept over Quartey's face, and you could tell that for as long as he lived, nobody would ever be able to convince him that he had lost the fight. He was not alone in this sentiment.

But despite the wide disparity of opinion, the De La Hoya-Quartey decision should not be considered a robbery, or even a bad call. The truth of the matter is that it was an extremely difficult fight to score, a fight that challenged the three ringside judges almost as much as it did the combatants. Judge Larry O'Connell (England) scored the fight 115-114 in Quartey's favor, but was overruled by Ken Morita (Japan) and John Keane (England), who saw it for De La Hoya by margins of 116-112 and 116-113, respectively. As is sometimes the case in a close fight, they only agreed on three rounds, the seventh, 10th, and 12th. Other than that, who won which round was far from obvious.

What made the fight particularly difficult to score was the fact that there were many crucial rounds in which next to nothing happened. Forget the ill-wrought comparisons to the Ray Leonard-Thomas Hearns epic in 1981 that Top Rank used as a promotional tool. De La Hoya-Quartey was a damn good fight, but no Leonard-Hearns, and it was those inconclusive, uneventful rounds—the first, second, fourth, fifth, eighth, 10th, and 11th—that prevented it from achieving classic status.

Let's look at the fight, round-by-round, in an effort to gain greater clarity as to what exactly happened, and who, ultimately, won the fight. Unlike the three judges, THE RING had the luxury of being able to see the fight more than once. First, at ringside, and then on videotape. Watching the tape also gives you the benefit of slow-motion replays and the added advantage of being able to view the action removed from the

Photos by Al Bello/Allsport



There was a total of three knockdowns. Quartey came off the floor in the thrilling sixth to dump De La Hoya with a left hook (above), and in the 12th, "The Golden Boy" decked Quartey again with another hook (below).

fervor of the moment and the atmosphere created by more than 13,000 chanting, screaming spectators. Not surprisingly, the conclusion reached after painstaking review of the video was not the same as the one reached watching from ringside. To a degree, the difference between the two scorecards helps explain why so many people disagreed with the official call.

Round One: On the surface, this appeared to be a typical feel-'em-out opening round. Both fighters threw a lot of ineffective jabs, which generally fell short or were blocked by the other man's gloves. At ringside, I scored it even. After watching replays, however, I gave it to De La Hoya, 10-9. Here's why: Not only did he connect with a nice left uppercut on the inside, late in the round the champion stepped in and fired a number of hard combinations to the body. Live, I thought Quartey had blocked them with his elbows, but slow-motion replays clearly showed that De La Hoya had reached around his foe's elbows with several of these shots, driving them squarely into Quartey's flanks.

Round Two: Another close, relatively uneventful session. Again, both fell short of the mark with most of their jabs and practically all of their powerpunches. Ringside, I gave it to Quartey, but on closer inspection I thought that De La Hoya edged it by a punch or two. Either way, there was precious little between them.

Round Three: The third straight excruciatingly close round. This time, though, Quartey got the benefit of replays. Although it was a largely unproductive three minutes for both men, a counter hook from Quartey was the difference. Live, it happened so fast that it was difficult to appreciate what an effective punch it was. But in slow-motion, you

HOW THEY SCORED IT

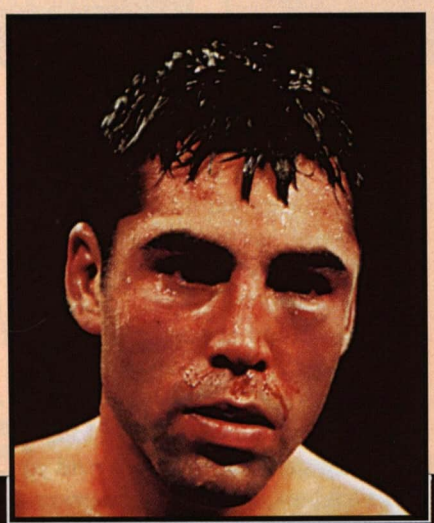
Below are the round-by-round scorecards of the three official judges, followed by THE RING'S revised tally:

Judges	Round 1	Round 2	Round 3	Round 4	Round 5	Round 6	Round 7	Round 8	Round 9	Round 10	Round 11	Round 12	Total
Larry O'Connell	10-9D	10-9Q	10-9Q	10-10E	10-9Q	10-9Q	10-9Q	10-10E	10-9Q	10-9D	10-9D	10-8D	115-114Q
Ken Morita	10-9D	10-9Q	10-9D	10-9D	10-9Q	10-10E	10-9Q	10-9D	10-9Q	10-9D	10-9D	10-8D	116-112D
John Keane	10-9Q	10-9D	10-9D	10-9D	10-10E	10-9Q	10-9Q	10-9Q	10-9D	10-9D	10-10E	10-8D	116-113D
THE RING	10-9D	10-9D	10-9Q	10-10E	10-9D	10-9Q	10-9Q	10-9D	10-9Q	10-9D	10-10E	10-8D	116-113D

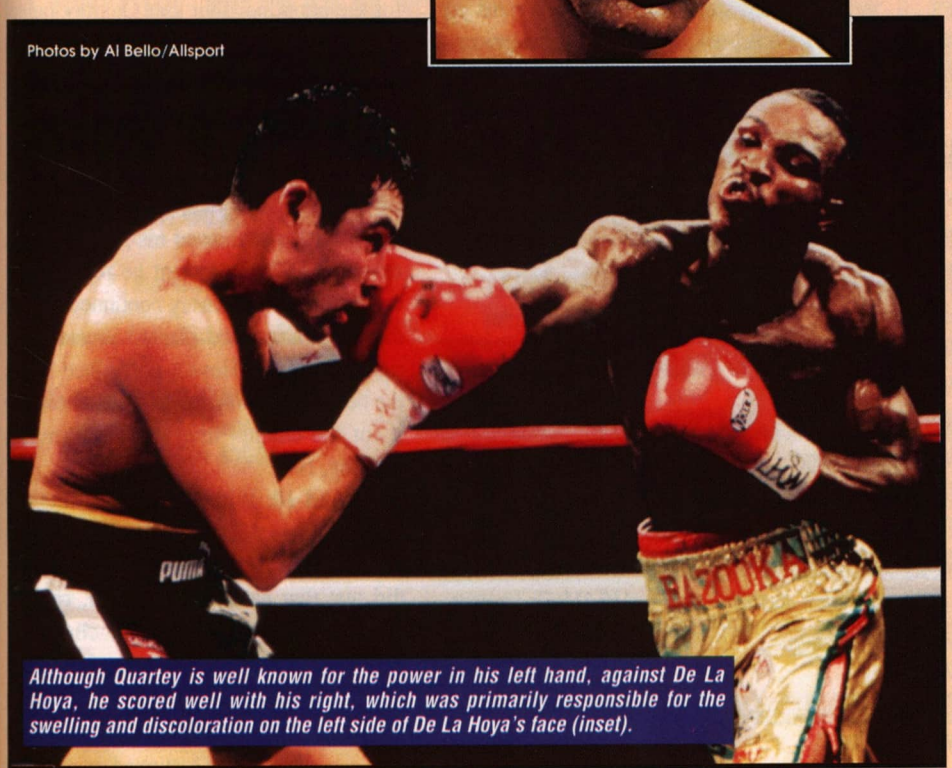
could see De La Hoya's head jerk back under the impact of what was definitely the hardest and most significant punch of the round.

Round Four: Unlike some, I don't believe scoring an even round to be an unforgivable sin. True, even rounds should be avoided whenever possible, but stubbornly refusing to acknowledge that they exist is just as silly as scoring multiple rounds even. This was another uneventful round in which both men failed to connect with any sort of regularity. Originally, I gave the round to Quartey, but changed my mind after seeing it again, and scored it 10-10.

Round Five: By this point, the fans were beginning to boo the lack of action. Quartey continued to fall short with his vaunted left, and De La Hoya continued to back up. It was hardly the stuff legends are made of, and at first I scored it even. But replays made it evident that the best punch of the round was a right to the head by De La Hoya, which, when trying to find a margin of difference in a tight round, was enough to convince me that the champion deserved to take it, 10-9.



Photos by Al Bello/Allsport



Although Quartey is well known for the power in his left hand, against De La Hoya, he scored well with his right, which was primarily responsible for the swelling and discoloration on the left side of De La Hoya's face (inset).

Round Six: What had been a tension-filled but uneventful fight suddenly became a wildly exciting shootout early in the round when De La Hoya attacked Quartey with increased intensity. He started with a double jab, knocked his adversary's head back on his shoulder with a right, and then dropped him on the seat of his gold trunks with a crackling left hook to the chin.

A startled Quartey popped right back up, apparently unhurt. And when, after referee Mitch Halpern's mandatory eight-count, De La Hoya tried to follow up, he ran into a nasty surprise. As De La Hoya advanced, Quartey slammed a left hook of his own between De La Hoya's guard, flooring "The Golden Boy" for the fourth time in his career.

Although De La Hoya also regained his feet quickly, he seemed to be still feeling the effects of the blow when Quartey resumed his attack. The remainder of the round was all Quartey. He landed a series of right hands, several of which connected squarely. And even though De La Hoya was clear-headed by time the bell rang, the area under his left eye was bruised and beginning to swell.

You don't see too many rounds at this level where both fighters suffer knockdowns, so perhaps we can excuse Morita for calling it even. But I didn't need to study replays to know that

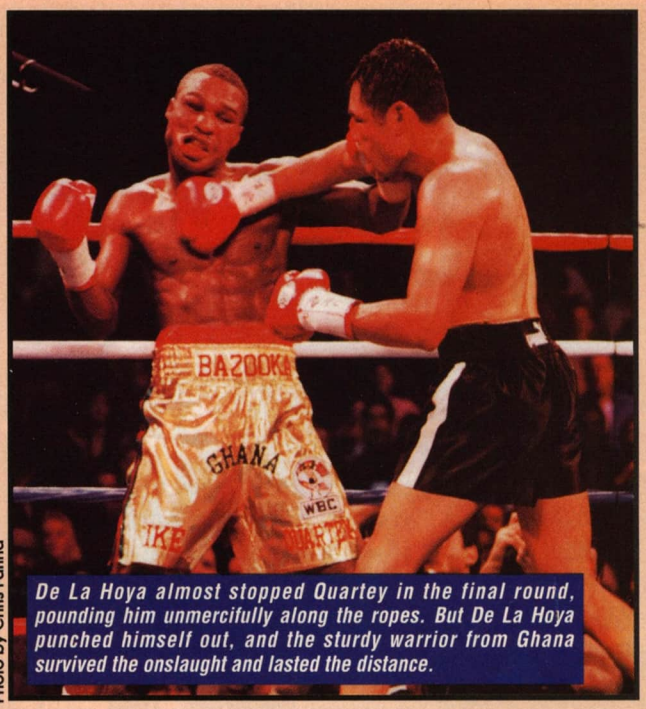
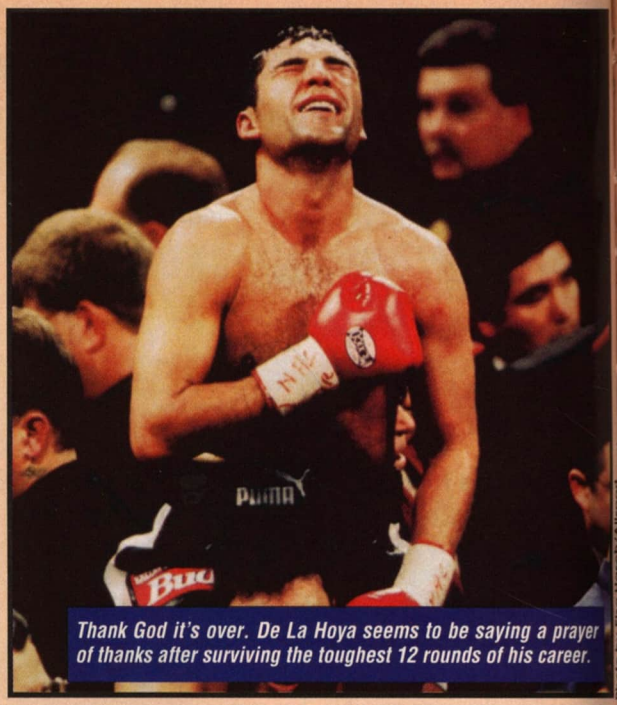


Photo by Chris Farina

De La Hoya almost stopped Quartey in the final round, pounding him unmercifully along the ropes. But De La Hoya punched himself out, and the sturdy warrior from Ghana survived the onslaught and lasted the distance.



Thank God it's over. De La Hoya seems to be saying a prayer of thanks after surviving the toughest 12 rounds of his career.

Photo by Elsa Hasch/Allsport

Quartey's dominance after he decked De La Hoya was more than enough to earn him the round, 10-9.

Round Seven: This was the first round of the fight in which the judges agreed, and all three gave it to Quartey, 10-9. It was a relatively easy round to score as Quartey kept De La Hoya on the defensive and found his head with a pair of right-left combinations, as well as a nice counter right. Both live and on tape, this was a strong round for the challenger.

Round Eight: Assistant trainer Gil Clancy had given De La Hoya an earful between rounds: "You're fighting like you're stuck in mud. You've got better legs than him. Use them!" And use them he did, bouncing out for the eighth with renewed vigor and temporarily abandoning the flat-footed approach he'd deployed throughout most of the fight.

Quartey's best moment came when he flicked out several range-finding jabs, and then came over the top with a right. But De La Hoya closed energetically, banging home two rights to the head, a hard jab, and a left hook to the body. Once more, I altered my score after watching the tape. Slow-motion disclosed that while the jabs Quartey had thrown backed up De La Hoya, very few had actually landed. In light of this, what had been a 10-9 round for Quartey on my ringside tally became a 10-9 round for De La Hoya.

Round Nine: Conversely, this was a round where replays confirmed what I'd seen live. Although De La Hoya did score with a pair of pretty left uppercuts early, they were in no way enough to compensate for the booming right that Quartey landed midway into the round. It was a corker that connected with such violent impact that it snapped the champion's head back and briefly staggered him. It was also a shot that unequivocally proved that The Golden Boy's chin has more than a trace of iron in it. De La Hoya showed his fighting heart, storming back the instant he regained his composure. But Quartey continued to hold the upper hand, and planted several more rights on De La Hoya's puffy face before the bell. Even though Keane somehow saw it for the champ, this was a no-brainer. Quartey, 10-9.

Round 10: With the fight and the title slipping away, De La Hoya had to do something to regain momentum, and he did just that early in the round, rocking Quartey with a hard left. The challenger almost went down, but managed to maintain his equilibrium. It was a substantial shot, and although De La Hoya landed

(Continued on page 57)

MEDIA SCORECARDS

A cross-section of De La Hoya-Quartey scores from various members of the print and electronic media:

Ed Schuyler	Associated Press	116-111, De La Hoya
Harold Lederman	HBO Sports	114-113, Quartey
Bernard Fernandez	*Philadelphia Daily News*	114-114, Even
Tim Smith	*New York Times*	116-114, De La Hoya
Michael Katz	New York *Daily News*	115-113, Quartey
Chris Thorne	*Newark Star Ledger*	116-112, De La Hoya
Jay Searcy	*The Philadelphia Inquirer*	115-114, Quartey
Teddy Atlas	ESPN Sports	114-114, Even
Bobby Czyz	Showtime	114-113, Quartey
Royce Feour	*Las Vegas Review-Journal*	116-111, De La Hoya
Ricardo Jimenez	*La Opinion*	115-114, De La Hoya
John Saraceno	*USA Today*	115-114, De La Hoya
Ron Borges	*The Boston Globe*	116-112, De La Hoya
Wally Matthews	*New York Post*	115-112, De La Hoya

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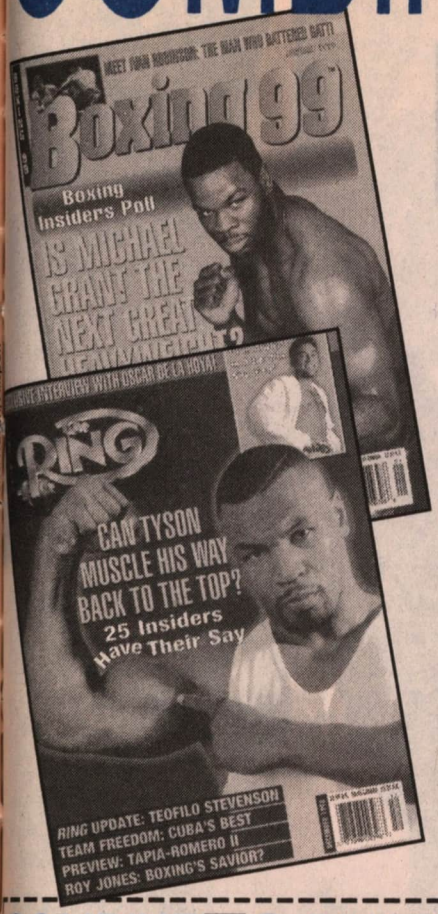

Photo by Elsa Hasch/Allsport

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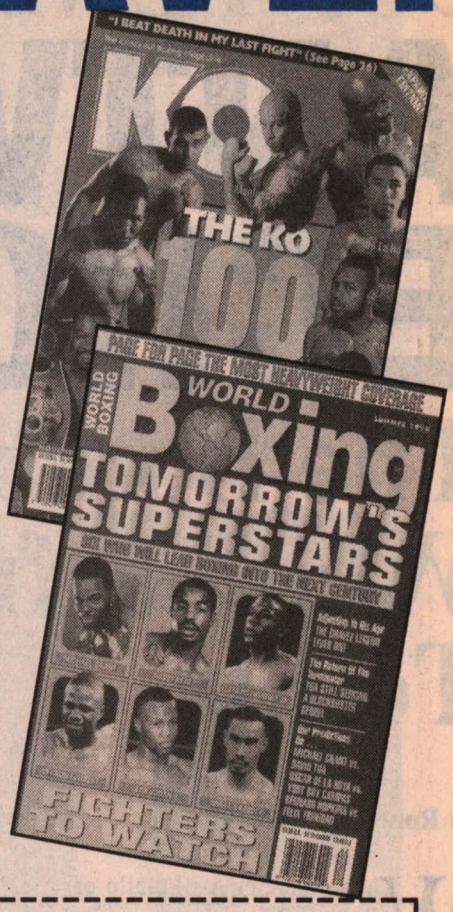

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MIDDLEWEIGHT CONTENDER

ANTWUN ECHOLS

The Bomber Who's Afraid To Fly

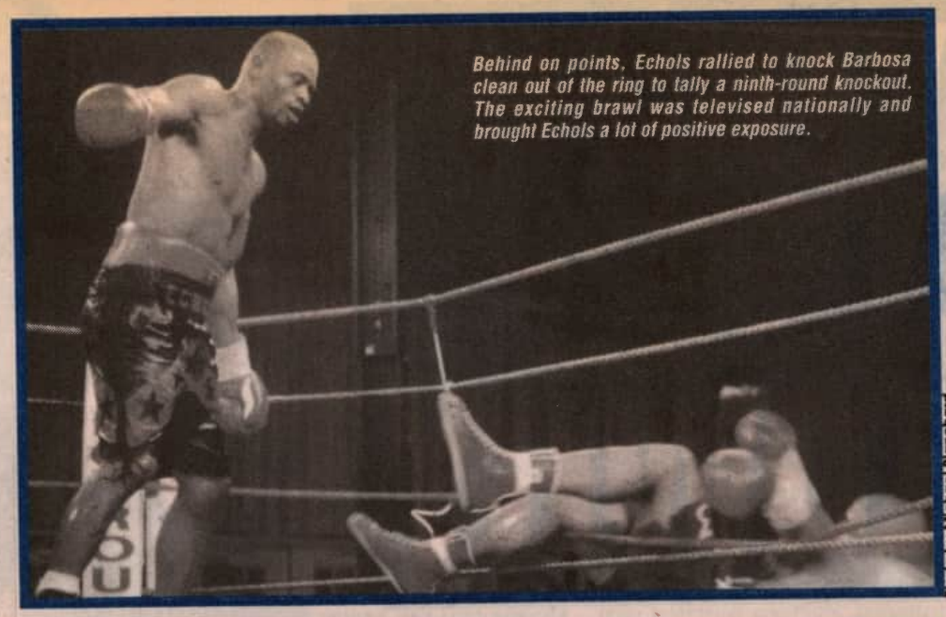
By Robert Mladinich

When promoter Art Pelullo of Banner Promotions saw the then-unknown middleweight Antwun "Kid Dynamite" Echols of Davenport, Iowa, dispatch the previously undefeated Andre Haddock back in May '97, he was mesmerized. Pelullo is not only a successful promoter, but an avid fan as well, so he is keenly aware that nothing generates more excitement in boxing then the discovery of a pure puncher. What was even more impressive about Echols was the fact that Haddock, a gritty Philadelphia warrior with 10 knockouts in 15 fights, had come to fight. But as game as he was and as hard as he tried, he could not stand up to the bone-jarring power of the relatively unknown Echols.

The bout was televised on the USA *Tuesday Night Fights* as a preliminary to the heavyweight fight between Jimmy Thunder and Maurice Harris. Even though the unheralded Harris scored a blistering knockout over the heavily favored Thunder that night, it was Echols who stole the

(Continued on page 61)

Photo by Douglas Ward



Behind on points, Echols rallied to knock Barbosa clean out of the ring to tally a ninth-round knockout. The exciting brawl was televised nationally and brought Echols a lot of positive exposure.

Photo by Michael Blanchard

Echols proudly poses with the NABF and USBA middleweight belts he won by knocking out Brian Barbosa. All of the 26-year-old slugger's victories have come via knockout.

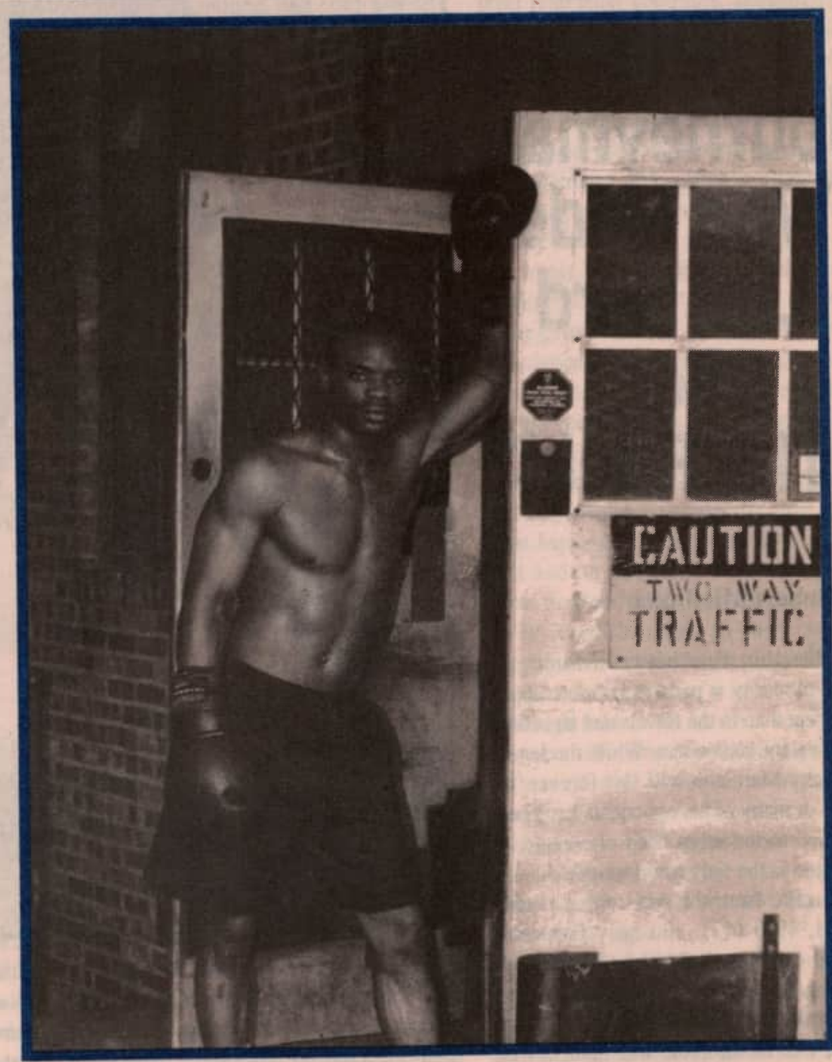


Photo by Douglas Ward

Formerly a violent kid who got into trouble, the hard-hitting Echols has turned his life around through boxing and is headed toward a title shot.

"TIGER" TED LOWRY

The Journeyman Who Made Life Hard For "The Rock"!

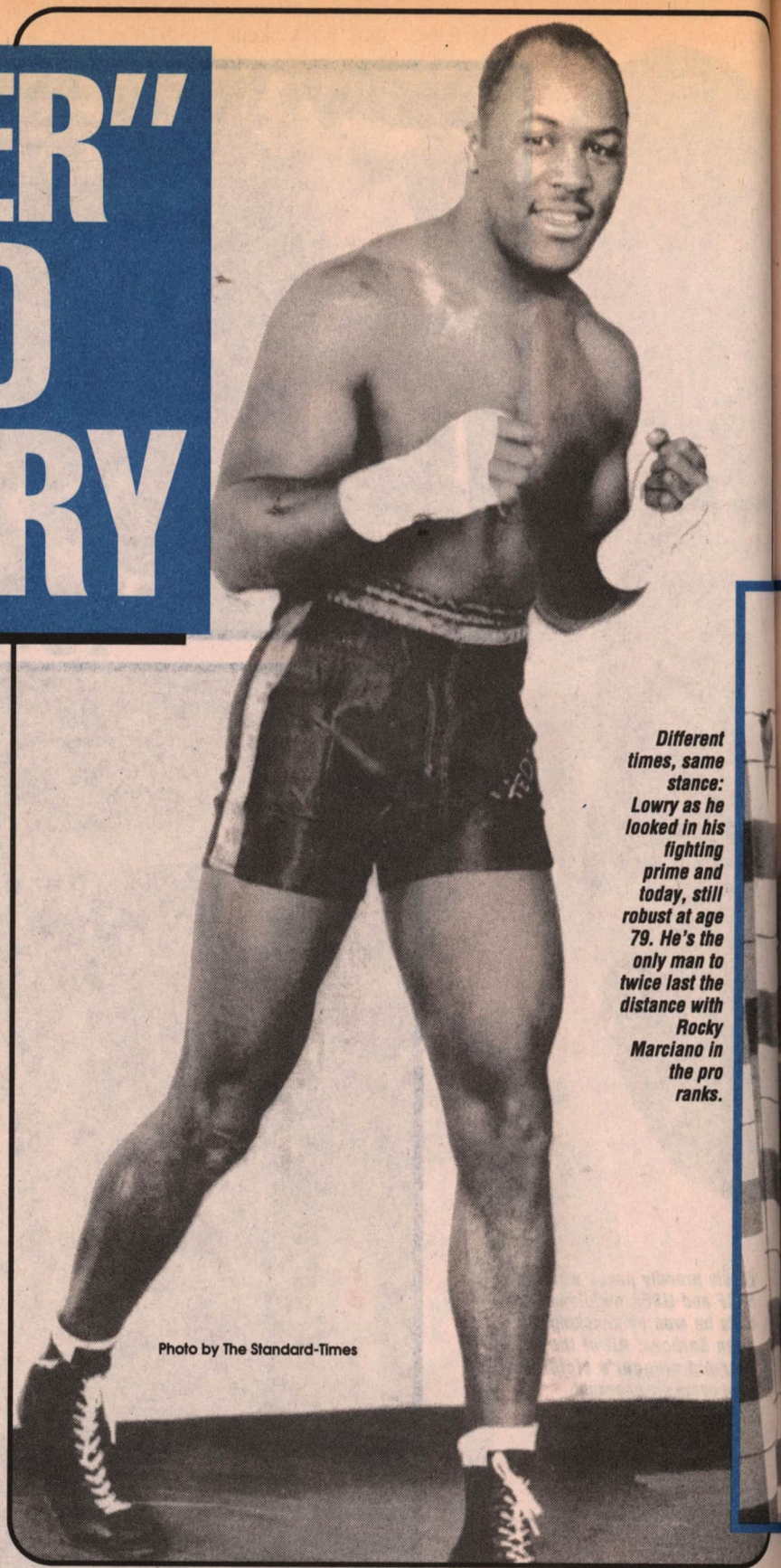


Photo by The Standard-Times

Different times, same stance: Lowry as he looked in his fighting prime and today, still robust at age 79. He's the only man to twice last the distance with Rocky Marciano in the pro ranks.

By Robert Mladinich

The thin line between fame and obscurity is perhaps no more apparent than in the travels and travails of heavyweight contenders. While the legend of Rocky Marciano will last forever, the names of many of his opponents have been relegated to the scrap heap of anonymity. Marciano is the only heavyweight champion to retire from the ring with a perfect record, 49-0 (43), and only five men, Ezzard Charles, Roland LaStarza, Don Mogard, Red Applegate, and Ted Lowry, were able to survive his bone-crunching power and indomitable will, and last the distance with him. What sets Lowry apart from the others is the fact that he managed to do it twice. Now a stout and hearty 79-year-old living in Norwalk, Connecticut, Lowry has no problem with the fact that he is better known as the faceless answer to a barroom trivia question than as a consummate journeyman who fought three world

champions and was stopped only three times in 131 fights.

"As long as people remember Rocky Marciano, they will always remember 'Tiger' Ted Lowry," he said with the subtle dignity that is the bedrock of his being. "That's a feather in my cap because it makes me part of history."

The first fight took place at the Providence Auditorium on October 10, 1949, and Marciano tried desperately, albeit futilely, for the entire 10 rounds to knock out the savvy veteran. Although Lowry's record was a mediocre 48-47-8 (33) at the time, he was usually involved in close fights and almost impossible to stop. While many ringsiders thought Lowry deserved the nod, Marciano won six of the

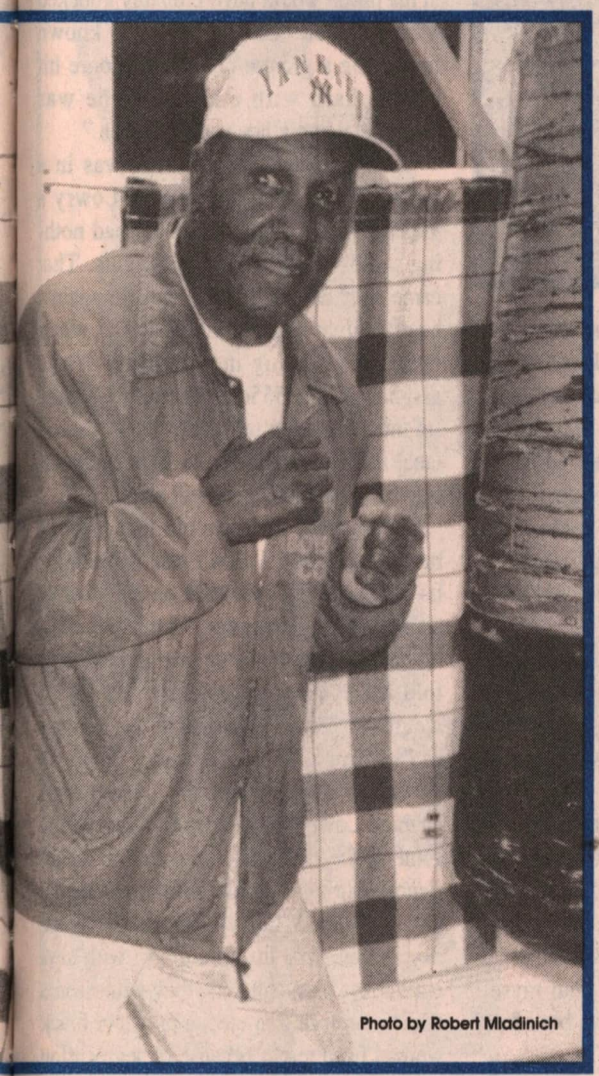


Photo by Robert Mladinich

10 rounds on the judges' scorecards. In his book, *Rocky Marciano: Biography Of A First Son*, author Everett M. Skehan wrote: "Lowry was a defensive fighter; didn't throw many hard punches, but seldom took any. Rocky kept battering Tiger to the body, trying to bring his defenses down, but he knew how to take the punches and held on for the 10-round distance."

Skehan also quoted a disgusted Marciano as repeating over and over immediately after the frustrating outing, "I should have had him." Long after his retirement, wrote Skehan, Marciano said, "I think Lowry would have gone the distance if we had fought 100 times. I could never get used to his style of fighting."

While Lowry insists the first fight could have gone his way without an iota of controversy, he concedes that Marciano beat him fair and square in their November '50 rematch at the same venue. Again Marciano won a close decision, but one that was far less questionable.

"I'll admit he won the second one, but nobody will ever convince me he won the first one," said Lowry. "In many ways I feel like I was cheated out of my place in history. But, I guess I have to take some of the blame, too. I took both fights on short notice and took him lightly. I didn't take either fight as seriously as I should have."

At the time of the first fight, Lowry, a native of Portland, Maine, who was fighting out of New Bedford, Massachusetts, was both the New England light heavy and heavyweight champion. He says he fought the future champion at 174 pounds and, like so many other boxing people, thought Marciano was nothing more than a hard-punching, but lumbering, clumsy, and predictable brawler who was going nowhere.

"It's easy to talk now, 40 years later, but believe me, if I had any idea Rocky was going to be champion, I would have prepared much better and quite possibly beat him both times," Lowry said. "He was well-conditioned and very strong, but not very smart in the ring. But he had so much determination and was such a rough and tumble guy, and that took him a very long way. I had a style that made him crazy. I don't want to talk about him when he's not around to defend himself, but I really think I had the perfect style to beat him."

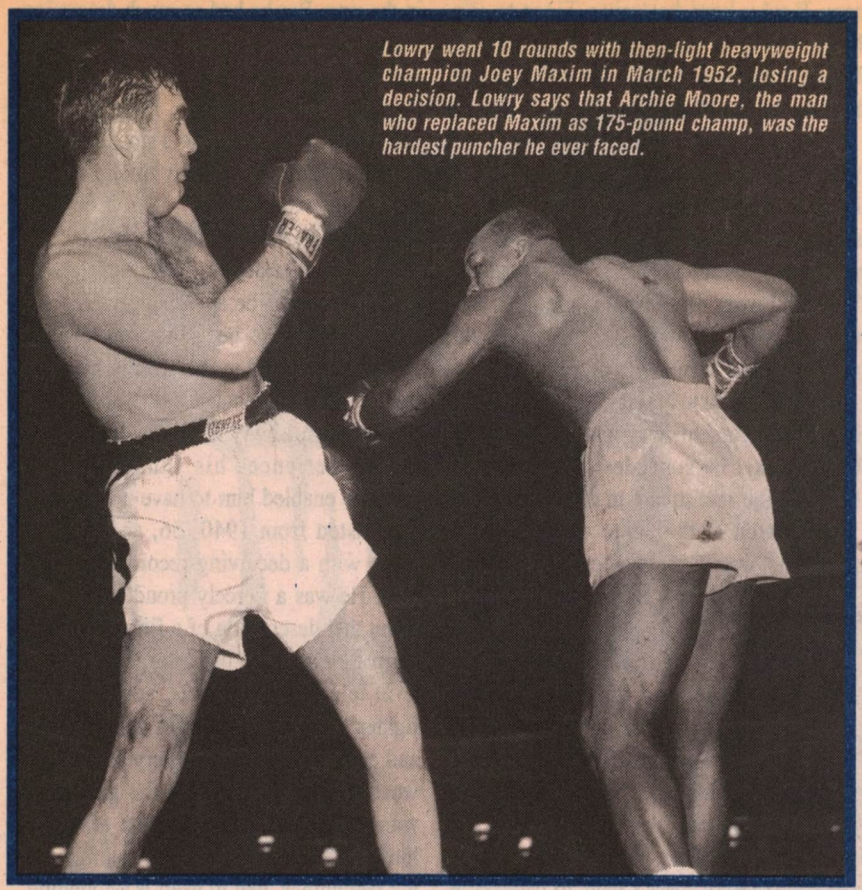
Lowry was a slick counterpuncher and skilled ring technician who wasn't always busy, but could be surprisingly effective when he chose to be. "That son of a gun never got hit solid in the head in his entire career," said LaStarza.

Although Lowry had virtually no amateur experience, his innate fighting instincts enabled him to have a fine career that lasted from 1940-'56, and saw him retire with a deceiving record of 55-66-9 (37). He was a fiercely proud journeyman when that description of a fighter could be worn like a badge of honor, before long-term television contracts, subsidizing of fighter's careers by casinos, multiple titles, and crybaby champs. In every sense of the word, Lowry personified the gritty road warrior that has become part of boxing lore. When you consider his humble boxing beginnings, that in itself is astounding.

Lowry grew up poor with his widowed mother Grace, whose faded picture he carries in his wallet to this day, and excelled in football, basketball, baseball, and track throughout his youth. With no boxing experience but an unrivaled local athletic reputation, he was dared into entering a boxing contest at age 18. Not only did he knock out three opponents in one night, he would have done the same to a fourth had that opponent not begged off after seeing what happened to his predecessors. Lowry still had no pugilistic aspirations when New England middleweight champion Babe Aberilla came to town several months later to train for an upcoming bout and was in dire need of a sparring partner. Although the humble Lowry was too modest to consider himself a fighter at the time, he was glad to work with the regional champ.

"He wanted to punch me around," recalled Lowry, laughing at the memory. "But I knocked him down, and they had to postpone his fight."

The 19-year-old Lowry made such an impression on Aberilla's manager that he was whisked off to New Bedford, where he was given no signing bonus and paid no



Lowry went 10 rounds with then-light heavyweight champion Joey Maxim in March 1952, losing a decision. Lowry says that Archie Moore, the man who replaced Maxim as 175-pound champ, was the hardest puncher he ever faced.

weekly stipend, but housed with several other fighters whose sole earnings would come from fighting hard and fighting often. Several weeks later, on New Years Day 1940, he scored a first-round knockout in his pro debut over Jack Wolgast in New Bedford, a bout that he said "scared the daylights out of me." He fought four more times that month and engaged in his first 10-rounder, a decision loss to Sam Shumway 29 days later. Only one week earlier, he had scored a third-round knockout of Shumway. It had not taken much convincing to get him to leave Maine, where he had been employed at the Betsy Ross Bakery washing pots and pans for $18 a week. The only career advancement possibilities, he recalled, "was learning to be a dough man."

At one point, Lowry fought for 15 consecutive weeks, and found his career steamrolling ahead at a breakneck pace. With the exception of a two-year hiatus for military service during World War II, he traversed the country on a regular basis, fighting in such fistic hotbeds and whistle stops as New York City; Portland, Oregon; Rochester; Cleveland; Buffalo; Boise; and Walla Walla, Washington. Along the way, he fought such luminaries and champions as "Tiger" Jack Fox in Spokane, Archie Moore in Baltimore, Joey Maxim in St. Paul, and Marciano. Against Maxim, who he said "was a nice guy and a great boxer, but couldn't punch a bit," he earned $800, while he made $2,500 for each of the Marciano fights. His career-high purse was $5,000 for fighting Harry "Kid" Matthews in Boise.

Although he was stopped only by Rusty Payne, Lee Q. Murray, and Matthews, Lowry remembers his trainer, Roy Brooks, regularly compared him negatively to the fighters of the past.

"I was fighting 10-rounders in my first month as a pro with no amateur experience at all," said Lowry. "He still would say, 'Ted, in my day you couldn't be a four-round fighter,' even though I was an established main-eventer. Now I find myself saying kids today couldn't have been four-round fighters during my era."

When you consider the fact that the 5'9" Lowry, who turned pro as a middleweight and never fought at over 185 pounds, was more than competitive with a veritable who's who of heavyweight contenders, his trainer's assessment seems pretty illogical. Lowry, who admits that "as a middleweight and light heavyweight I knocked everybody out, but as a heavyweight I knocked nobody out," took on such legitimate contenders as Matthews, LaStarza, Lee Savold, and Phil Muscato, all of whom fought Marciano and got stopped (although LaStarza did go the distance in a non-title fight; he was stopped in the 11th round of a subsequent championship bout). Lowry did more than hold his own against all of them, even though each was taller and heavier than he was.

While Lowry concedes that Marciano's record speaks for itself, he does not consider him his toughest opponent. That honor goes to Archie Moore, who he says "hit harder than anybody I ever fought, and in his prime would have probably knocked Marciano out." Lowry, who was known for having a granite chin, said Moore hit him so hard with a left hook he was "shocked that my jaw wasn't broken."

As illustrious as his career was in a quintessential blue-collar way, Lowry's greatest source of pride actually had nothing to do with the Marciano fights. That came from an exhibition he fought against heavyweight champion Joe Louis when both were serving in the Army. While assigned to the 555th Airborne Parachute Infantry Battalion at Camp Polk, Louisiana, Lowry volunteered to fight the visiting champ during a goodwill stop.

"I was only 23 years old, but I didn't hit the floor, and I didn't take a beating," he recalled as his face took on the glow of an awe-struck youngster. "After the exhibition, Joe paid me some compliments and told me I had a good future. He said I would go places. From then on, I never had any fear in the ring again."

While the exhibition with Louis enabled Lowry to conquer any ring fears, some of the racial discrimination he experienced during wartime both terrified and angered him. While riding on a bus one day in Louisiana in full uniform with several fellow black soldiers, they witnessed a white man trying to eject a pregnant black woman from a seat because of segregation policies. One of Lowry's friends told the woman not to budge, and an argument ensued. When the bus arrived at the next town, an angry mob had assembled, and it was obvious that they had lynching on their minds. Lowry said he was convinced

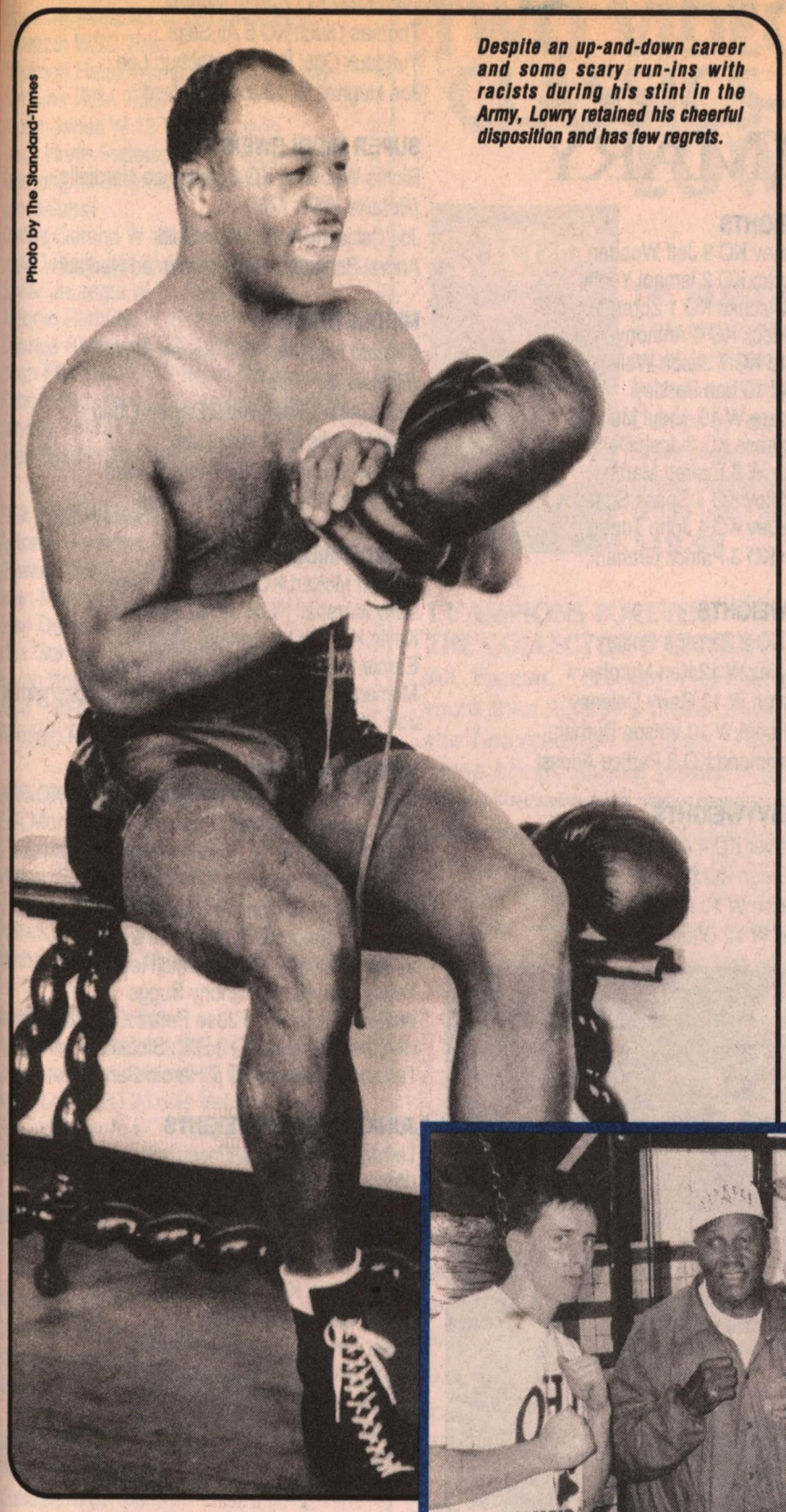


Photo by The Standard-Times

Despite an up-and-down career and some scary run-ins with racists during his stint in the Army, Lowry retained his cheerful disposition and has few regrets.

he was going to die that day, and only the intervention of an Army captain who happened along enabled them to get out of town alive.

It was while stationed in Mineral Wells, Texas, that he received an even greater lesson on social inequities. These lessons quite possibly prepared him for many of the fistic injustices that he feels he experienced in later years. There was a prisoner-of-war camp nearby that housed low-level German prisoners. Several were classified as trustees and allowed furloughs once or twice a week, when they were allowed to ride a public bus into town. Blacks were forced to sit in the rear of the bus, even when wearing United States military uniforms. Lowry remembers the enemy soldiers pointing and laughing at them from their seats at the front of the bus as if they were zoo exhibits.

"They probably shot some of our boys, and were laughing at us," Lowry said. "I couldn't believe what I was seeing. It just didn't make any sense."

Lowry admits that the only major disappointment of his career was not being properly prepared for Marciano. But he is smart enough to realize that had he beat Marciano, the great champion might not have gone on to have such an acclaimed career, and that would have precluded him being such an important footnote in history. But four decades removed from his most memorable ring battles, Lowry is still too busy to dwell on past failures or what might have been. He lives with his second wife, Alice, to whom he has been married for 34 years, and works full-time as a glass installer for Nat Levy Glass Co. Still an amazingly fit 194 pounds, he imparts his

(Continued on page 63)

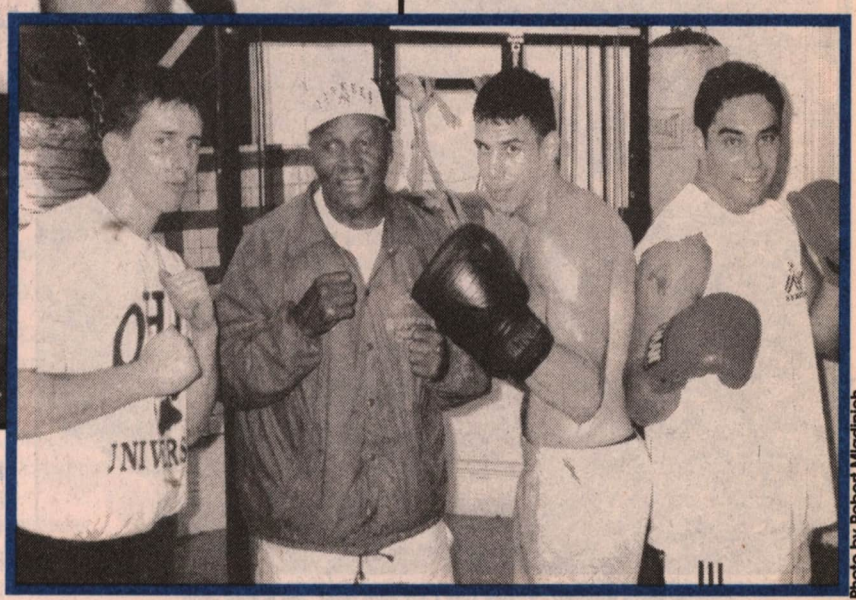


Photo by Robert Mladinich

Still going strong: Lowry at the Greater Norwalk Boxing Association gym, where he trains pupils twice a week, including Chris Hauptman, Danny Maldonado, and Mike Echevarria.

SUMMARY

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Oleg Maskaev KO 3 Jeff Wooden
Vitali Klitschko KO 2 Ismael Youla
Wladimir Klitschko KO 1 Zoran Vujecic
Razor Ruddock KO 6 Anthony Willis
Jerry Ballard KO 7 Jason Waller
Joey Guy W 10 Iran Barkley
Quinn Navarre W 10 Abdul Muhaymin
Art Pendergrass KO 3 Josh Dempsey
Willi Fischer W 8 Everett Martin
Yuri Yelistratov KO 4 Spass Spassov
Nicolay Valuev KO 4 John Tupou
Butterbean KO 3 Patrick Graham

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Terry Ray KO 2 Samson Cohen
Alex Gonzalez W 12 Ken Murphy
Buster Keeton W 12 Garry Delaney
Terry McGroom W 10 Vinson Durham
Samuel Florimond KO 6 Patrice Aoussi

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Antonio Tarver KO 4 John Williams
Derrick Harmon KO 9 Gilberto Brown
David Telesco W 10 Bo James
Soon Botes W 12 Gladman Msomi

Photo by Al Bello/Allsport

Frankie Randall catches Oba Carr with right, but would drop a unanimous decision

Glen Kelly KO 7 John Mugabi
Thomas Ulrich KO 8 Ali Saidi
Yungsuk Choi KO 3 Sungchun Lee
Joe Hughes W 10 Jim Crawford

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Richie Woodhall KO 6 Vincenzo Nardiello
(Retains WBC Title)
Joe Calzaghe W 12 Robin Reid
Andrei Schkalikov W 8 Mohamed Nedjadi

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Bernard Hopkins KO 7 Robert Allen
(Retains IBF Title)
Julio Cesar Green KO 9 Darren Obah
Keith Holmes KO 1 Alex Lubo
Andrew Council W 10 Michael Ward
Erland Betare W 12 Ali Ennebati

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
Bronco McKart KO 8 Rene Herrera
Tony Marshall KO 4 Javier Altamirano
Kevin Kelly KO 8 Armend Ajadato
Earnie Artango W 10 Alberto Machong
Mamadou Thiam KO 2 Alexander Perevozchekhov
Joe Townsley W 12 Jim Webb

WELTERWEIGHTS
Oscar De La Hoya W 12 Ike Quartey
(Retains WBC Title)
Felix Trinidad W 12 Pernell Whitaker
(Retains IBF Title)
Oba Carr W 10 Frankie Randall
Vernon Forrest KO 2 Mark Fernandez
Vincent Pettway W 10 Gerald Reed
Teddy Reid KO 5 Anthony Suggs
Walter Crucce W 10 Jose Perez
Hercules Kyvelos KO 2 Rich Stockton
Terrance Cauthen KO 7 Harold Bennett

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
Terronn Millett KO 5 Vince Phillips
(Wins IBF Title)
Sharmba Mitchell W 12 Pedro Saiz
(Retains WBA Title)
Reggie Green KO 3 Jesus Rodriguez
Antonio Diaz KO 2 Mauro Lucero
Hector Quiroz KO 1 Tony Lopez
Cesar Leiva KO 10 Albert Castro
Oktay Urkal KO 2 Frederick Tripp
Moses James W 12 Danny Lujan
DeMarcus Corley KO 5 Sergio Pena
Vivian Harris KO 1 Jerry Smith
Hector Camacho Jr. W 10 Juan Torres

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Billy Schwer KO 7 Zoltan Kalocsai
Victor Paz KO 3 Ruben Oliva
Rick Roberts KO 10 Kenji Fukunaga
Downmai Sithkodom W 10 Rey Pelonia
Gilberto Serrano KO 6 Edelmiro Martinez

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
Floyd Mayweather W 12 Carlos Rios
(Retains WBC Title)
Takanori Hatakeyama D 12 Saul Duran
(Retains WBA Title)
Junior Jones W 12 Tom Johnson
Tracy Harris Patterson W 10 Russell Jones
Sirimongkol Singmanassuk W 10
Jun Balabat
Carlos Gerena W 12 Jose Manjarrez
Joel Casamayor W 12 Jose Luis Noyola
Javier Jauregui W 12 Jose Badillo
Antonio Ramirez W 10 Aaron Zarate
Charles Shepherd KO 6 Trust Ndlovu
Sean Fletcher KO 12 Bryan Cook
Kengo Nagashima KO 10 Yuji Watanabe
Johnny Walker KO 10
Juan Gomez Trinidad

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Antonio Cermeno KO 2 Eddie Saenz
(Retains WBA Title)
Juan Manuel Marquez KO 1
Jose DeJesus Garcia
Max Gomez KO 5 Roberto Villarreal
Istvan Kovacs KO 2 Mario Nestor Cabello
Julio Pablo Chacon W Disq. 8
Remigio Molina

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
Erik Morales KO 2 Angel Chacon
(Retains WBC Title)
Vuyani Bungu KO 7 Victor Llerena
(Retains IBF Title)
Patrick Mullings W 12 Brian Carr
Mustapha Hame W 10 Serge Poilblan

BANTAMWEIGHTS
Arthur Johnson KO 1 Ruben Contreras
Cuauhtemoc Gomez W 12 Angel Rosario
Adey Lewis KO 2 Louis Veitch
Francis Ampofo KO 9 Shaun Anderson
Noel Wilders W 10 Jason Thomas

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS
Francisco Espitia KO 5 Juan Jose Beltran

FLYWEIGHTS
Chokchai 3K Battery KO 3
Kiat Saensurakot
Kenkaosaen Kaowichit W 12 Yura Dima

JUNIOR FLYWEIGHTS
Pichitnoi C. Siriwat W 12 Joma Gamboa
(Retains WBA Title)
Melchor Cob Castro W 12 Oscar Andrade
Hidenobu Honda W 10 Ryuji Muramatsu
Wolf Tokimitsu KO 4 Jovy Mancha

STRAWWEIGHTS
Hurricane Chulan Tech. Win 8 Julio Basez

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RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER *of the* MONTH

The February 6 rematch with Robert Allen was the most important fight of Hopkins' career, and he knew it. "The Executioner" had just turned 34. In the first fight with Allen, Hopkins got muscled around in clinches and beaten to the punch, and after four dirty, ugly rounds, many boxing experts considered Hopkins lucky to have freakishly fallen from the ring, resulting in a no-contest. He had to prove himself all over again, prove that he wasn't growing old, and he did it by refusing to control his rage.

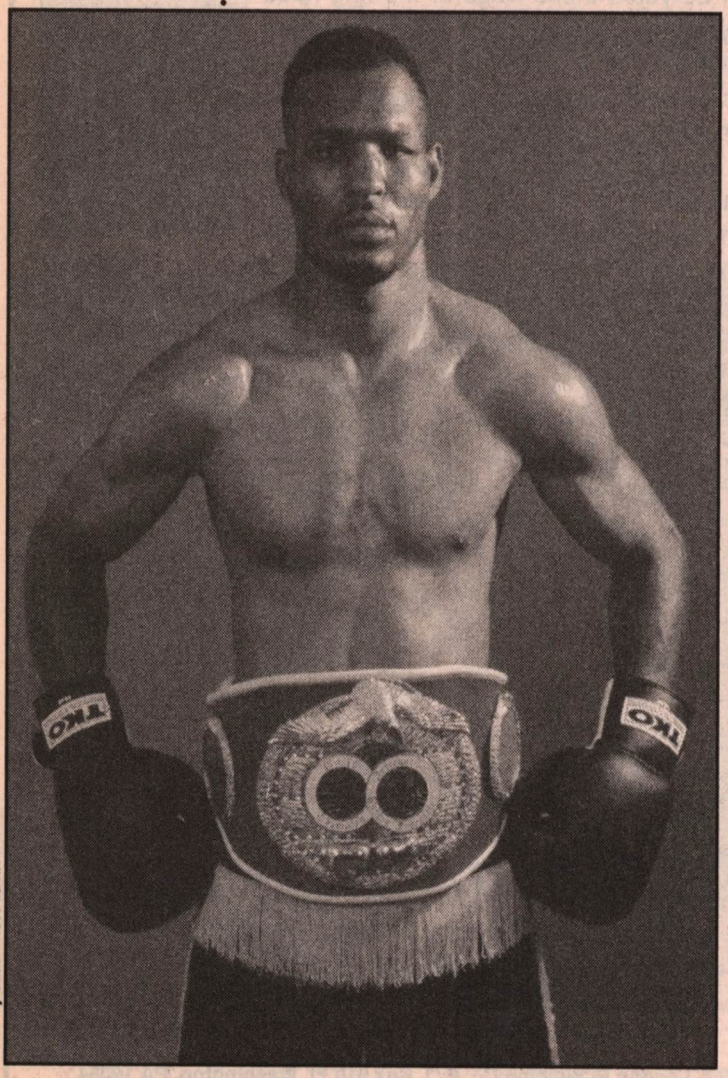


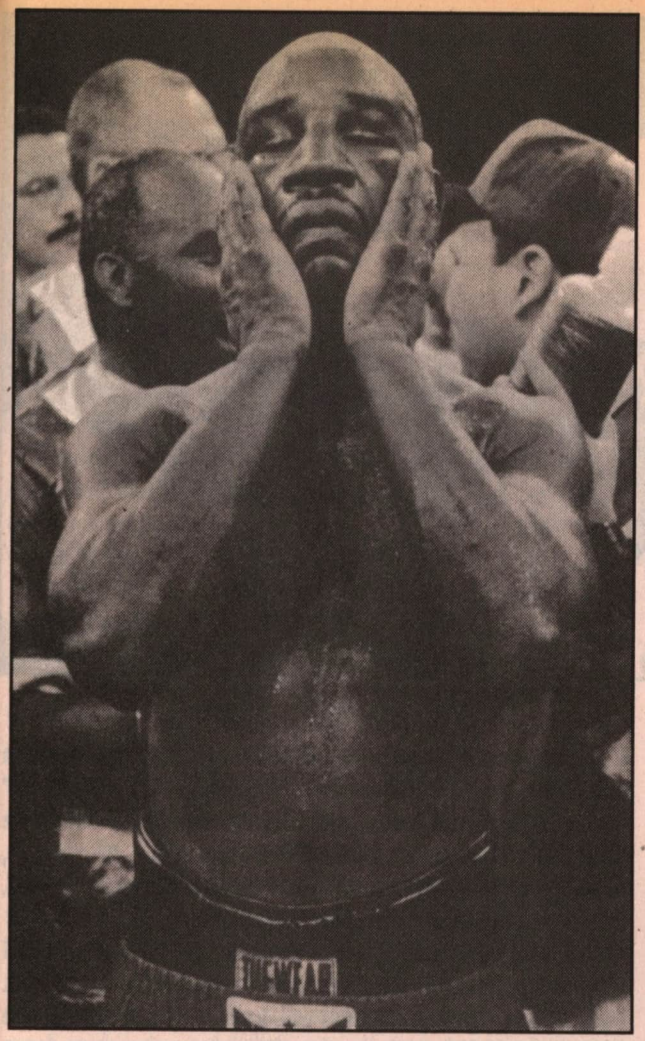
Photo by Jason Ross Lavin

"It's really stupid to say boxing is not personal between two athletes that are going in the ring, because even though it's a sport, we are actually thinking seriously about harming each other," Hopkins said. "So to get up for a fight, it's always personal."

Hopkins and Allen seemed to genuinely dislike each other, and the IBF middleweight champion channeled his anger into perhaps the finest performance of his 38-fight career. His lead right hand was constantly on target, he was always the aggressor, and he was just so sharp and ready that Allen never had a chance. Hopkins scored two knockdowns on his way to a convincing seventh-round stoppage, a reminder to everyone that there should be no debate over who the world's best middleweight is.

• • • •

Bernard Hopkins



Disappointed Mullings endures another close decision loss

Francisco Castillejo W 12 Keith Mullings

Cubierta de Leganes, Spain: Spurred on by a wildly enthusiastic 12,000-strong crowd invigorated by the action and the scent of the bullring, Castillejo, 153¼, Spain, rose magnificently to the occasion. He outboxed a disappointingly pedestrian Mullings, 153, Brooklyn, New York, at the Plaza de Toros on the outskirts of Madrid to capture the WBC super welterweight title by majority decision. It was 31-year-old Mullings' second defense.

Castillejo's previous tilt at a world title ended in defeat on points six years ago against Argentinian warrior Julio Cesar Vasquez for the WBA version. The victor here had been promised by promoter Bob Arum a shot later this year at "The Golden Boy" Oscar De La Hoya, though Mullings was clearly the desired candidate. Lethargic and ineffectual, the Gulf War veteran was repeatedly caught by winging punches, and can consider himself lucky De La Hoya was not the one charging from the opposite corner.

Castillejo, 30, exploited Mullings' flaws well enough. With brisk lateral movement and eye-catching hand speed, he took the first round comfortably and revealed his strategy for the fight: dart in and out, land crisp if not concussive blows, and leave Mullings chasing shadows as often as he could. The champion's left hook showed clear signs of being a dangerous weapon, but repeatedly he was slow in getting it off.

The Spaniard's confidence had soared to the extent that in the fifth he treated his raucous supporters to some Sugar Ray Leonard theatrics, winding up his right hand in small, seemingly malevolent circles before coolly unleashing his left. Castillejo, 44-4 (28), overcame the effect of a powerful right uppercut in the seventh and responded with a strong overhand right that knocked Mullings, 16-5-1 (11), into the ropes, where he was met by a further deluge from the two-time former European champion.

Mullings produced the necessary aggression in the eighth, hooking to the body and head, but failed to sustain it through the ninth. Castillejo got back on his bike and even showboated in the final round, confident his optimism would be vindicated. It was, as Sergio Silvi (Italy) and Kamen Petrov (Bulgaria) both scored for the challenger, by 115-114 and 116-114, respectively. Harold Lawrence (Curacao) had it a draw at 114-114. THE RING saw it 115-114 for Castillejo.

Promoter: Top Rank

(1-29-99)

Brian Doogan

Bernard Hopkins KO 7 Robert Allen

Washington, D.C.: "The Executioner" was back, and IBF middleweight champion Hopkins wanted everyone to know it going into his scheduled 12-round title rematch with Allen. Hopkins felt as if he had to vindicate himself for his previous performance against Allen last August, which ended with the champ suffering an ankle injury when referee Mills Lane inadvertently shoved him out of the ring while breaking a clinch.

Hopkins, 159, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, felt there were some

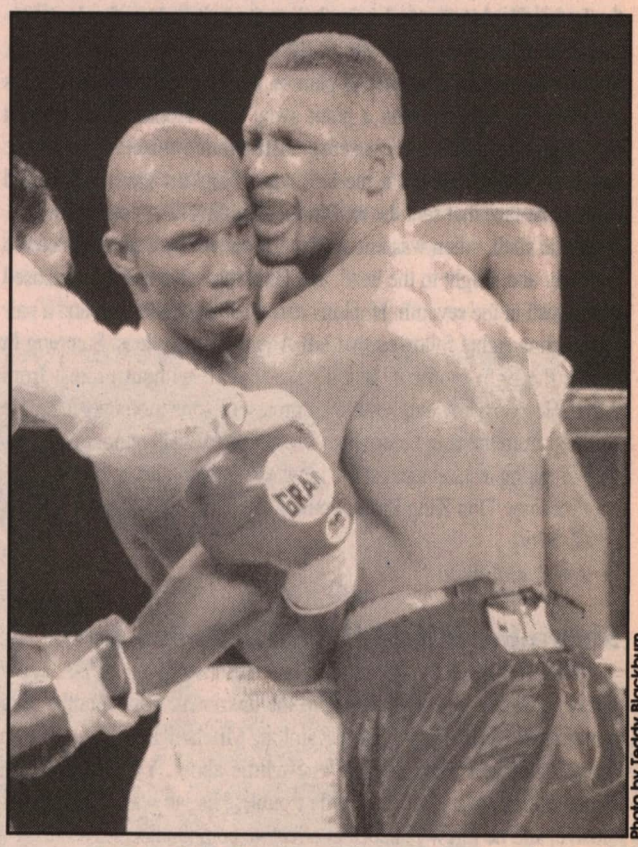


Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Hopkins and Allen got into another foul-filled affair

who doubted him. Allen, 159, Atlanta, Georgia, was telling anyone who would listen that Hopkins faked his injury to get out of the fight. So Hopkins, 35-2-1 (27) with 1 no-contest, entered the Washington Convention Center hellbent on proving Allen—and anyone else who questioned him—wrong.

He charged into the arena tightly encircled by his entourage, wearing a scowl. Hopkins, 34, left the ring in almost the same manner, running out after putting on a brilliant boxing display in crushing Allen, 23-3 (18) with 1 no-contest, by a stoppage 1:18 into round seven.

Hopkins' message was clear: No more Mr. Nice Guy.

"I got so comfortable with boxing in the Simon Brown and Andrew Council fights," Hopkins said. "The guy you saw come in here tonight, the real intense guy, yelling and screaming, you're going to see more of that. I wanted to box Allen the last time, and everyone thought I was timid. But you know what I decided? I'm going to be 'The Executioner' again. The hood is back, the axes are back. I wasn't going to wear that stuff anymore because I thought it was something that was tied with Butch Lewis [Hopkins' former promoter], but I was cheating myself."

Hopkins did not cheat the 3,952 on hand or the audience viewing the fight on Showtime. He came out looking sharp, establishing a constant attack using a straight right hand that found its mark most of the fight. Southpaw Allen, 29, kept getting caught backing up. "My left hand was missing, and that left a big opening," Allen said. "I was trying to do too much. I waited on him, too. That's why he kept hitting me with the right."

Hopkins was penalized a point in the fourth round, in what was a three-minute folly of pratfalls and flops by Allen. About a minute into the frame, Hopkins tapped Allen below the belt and received a warning from referee Rudy Battle (USA). Near the end of the round, Hopkins sent Allen writhing in pain on the canvas with a shot to his hip. This time, Battle took a point away from Hopkins and warned both fighters to end the nonsense. Allen failed miserably to score Academy Award points at the bell when Hopkins gave him a mild slap on the face that sent the ex-Marine tumbling down once more.

In the sixth, Allen was knocked to the canvas by a series of lefts to the body and a right to the head, and Hopkins, sensing the kill, closed in to finish in the seventh. Hopkins cornered the challenger, and a pair of thudding rights followed that left Allen on shaky legs. Stepping in at just the right moment, Battle called a halt without protest from Allen. Hopkins, however, did log a protest of sorts moments later. He stormed from the ring before his victory was officially announced, his way of taking a stand against the injustices and politics of boxing.

Promoter: Don King Promotions

(2-6-99)

Joe Santoliquito

Sharmba Mitchell W 12 Pedro Saiz

Washington, D.C.: Mitchell's first defense of the WBA super lightweight title was a venture into the unknown. Four months after winning the belt from Khalid Rahilou, Mitchell faced Dominican fringe contender Saiz, who he knew little about. Yet Mitchell, 29, Tacoma Park, Maryland, had little trouble. His jab was crisp, he was elusive, and he threw punches in effective combinations in securing a 12-round unanimous decision over the 34-year-old challenger.

Photo by Teddy Blackburn

Mitchell and Saiz exchange right hands

Both fighters received about two weeks notice for the fight, with some perks attached. The champion, nicknamed "Little Big Man," got a chance to fight in front of a friendly hometown crowd at the Washington Convention Center. For his part, Saiz, 23-5-3 (16), received some TV exposure and proved he had a granite-like chin, which withstood almost everything Mitchell threw.

"He did have a heck of a chin," Mitchell, 44-2 (29), admitted. "I was training with regular [right-handed] guys preparing for this fight. I didn't know anything about this guy. I found out at the last minute this guy was a lefthander."

Mitchell, who is also lefthanded, was just too fast for the flat-footed Saiz. He sprayed jabs all around, then every once in a while, tagged Saiz in the ribs with a left hook. As for Saiz, his most effective punch of the fight occurred in the third when he landed a straight right to the body that momentarily staggered Mitchell, 140. The champion quickly recovered to lock up Saiz, 140, in a clinch along the ropes. Saiz also scored frequently with straight lefts, which caused Mitchell's cheek to swell, but didn't pack enough power to turn things around.

The only official knockdown occurred in the fifth, when Saiz slipped on a piece of ringside padding after Mitchell landed a left hook to the head. Referee Ken Chevalier (USA) ruled it a knockdown despite Saiz' protests. Saiz also lost a point in the seventh for a low blow that left Mitchell gasping.

"I got 16 days notice for the fight, but that's no excuse, I was ready to fight," Saiz said. "I tried to get Mitchell inside. I didn't get him to fight the way I wanted. He moved a lot, he's very slick."

Judge Paul Artisst (USA) scored it 120-105, Hubert Earle (Canada) had it 119-107, and Henk Meijers (Netherlands) somehow scored it 116-112, giving the last three rounds to Saiz. THE RING scored it 119-107 for Mitchell.

Television: Showtime

Promoter: Don King Promotions

(2-6-99)

Joe Santoliquito

Jean-Baptiste Mendy W 12 Alberto Sicurella

Paris, France: Compelled into a more aggressive mode than is his customary style, Mendy, 134½, France, retained the WBA lightweight title with a comprehensive points win over mandatory challenger Alberto Sicurella, 134¼, Argentina, at the Palais des Sports. It was his first defense of the WBA title, having previously reigned briefly as WBC champion.

Tall and rangy, the 36-year-old Frenchman was forced into dispensing with his counterpunching instincts to initiate the action against a challenger whose wariness in battle is reflected in a career record that boasts only 12 stoppages in 47 successful fights. Sicurella, 27, can take a punch better than he gives one, and proved that most conspicuously in the sixth when he survived a solid left that sent him reeling into the ropes. But he was never assertive enough to seriously threaten a reign that could handily be jeopardized by a more robust opponent.

A state of peace was seemingly declared for the majority of the first four rounds, Mendy accumulating points by merely going through the motions as Sicurella, 47-2 (12), yielded ground and retaliated only occasionally with a right hand that might have been encased in lather for all the harm it did. Belatedly, Mendy, 53-7-2 (30) with 1 no-contest, burst to life in the fifth, raising his arms and standing still to invite an Argentinian offensive before throwing a series of striking combinations that brought the crowd to its feet.

Only the ropes prevented Sicurella falling in the sixth when Mendy, his right cheek swelling up, landed stiffly with a good left, and American referee Mitch Halpern correctly ruled it a knockdown. Mendy landed another good left in the seventh from his southpaw stance, but failed to produce a similar effect, getting warned for punching low instead. Sicurella made him pay with a solid three-punch combination in the ninth and rocked the champion in the 11th with a left hook and three sturdy rights. Mendy rallied to take the 12th on two of the three judges' cards. Former world champion Alexis Arguello (Nicaragua) scored it 118-110, Ove Ovesen (Denmark) had it 116-111, and Medardo Villalobos (Panama) saw it 117-112, all for Mendy. THE RING's card read 116-111.

Promoter: AB Stars Productions

(1-25-99)

Brian Doogan

Andrew Golota W 10 Jesse Ferguson

Atlantic City, New Jersey: Just above the boisterous din of the Polish-American fans chanting for Golota at the Atlantic City Boardwalk Convention Center Ballroom, you could, for a brief moment, make out the crowd's collective groan as journeyman Ferguson removed his shirt. They knew he had stepped in as a replacement for injured Jimmy Thunder on just three days notice, but coming off an impressive win over Obed Sullivan, Ferguson, it was hoped, would still be in fighting shape. But the second the 41-year-old's soft gut seeped out over the top of his trunks, it was apparent to all that they would not be seeing the best of "The Boogie Man." And as a result, nothing more was proven about the still-comebacking Golota.

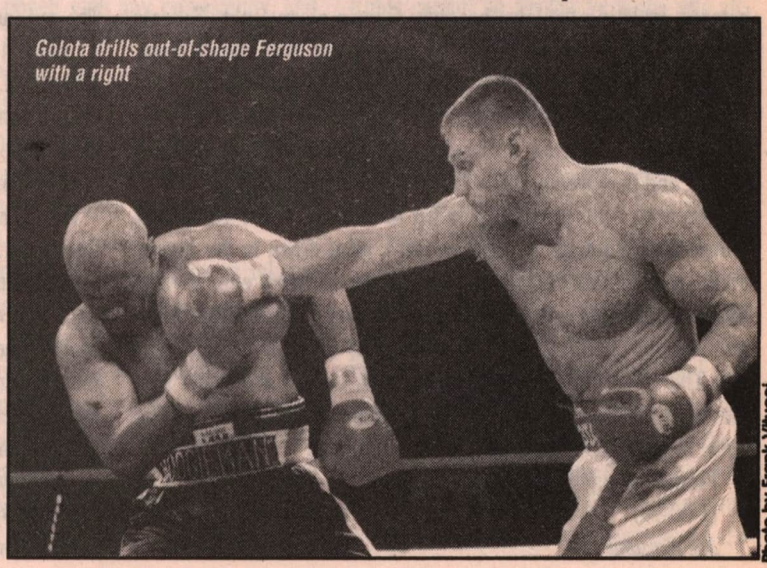
"We picked Jesse because he's a professional and you know he's going to give you a professional effort," HBO Sports Senior Vice President Lou DiBella said when it was announced that Ferguson, 26-18 (16), would be the opponent. And while Ferguson's effort was commendable, his sorry conditioning made it an impossible task from the start, as he fired punches infrequently and wobbled his way through 10 rounds of Golota's attack. The 31-year-old Golota reportedly locked himself in his hotel room and cried when he learned that the time he and his trainers had spent devising a strategy to fight Thunder was for naught.

Considerably calmer by fight time, Golota, 238, Chicago, Illinois, established his jab early on and was firing neck-snapping combinations by the end of the first. But before the blowout could get completely underway, it almost turned into another low-blowout for "The Foul Pole," as referee Joe Cortez (USA) had to warn Golota for straying below the belt twice in the second round. But he kept his composure, danced his way out of trouble when the much slower Ferguson did open up, and continued to pepper his opponent without ever going for the kill.

Things got interesting at the end of the fifth, when Golota landed a right hand just after the bell (in all fairness, he was beginning to throw it before the bell rang) and Ferguson, 239, Knightdale, North Carolina, retaliated by reaching over Cortez and punching Golota in the back of the head as the Pole was returning to his corner. Ferguson lost a point, but it was quite academic. Golota opened a cut over Ferguson's left eye in the sixth, and from about the seventh round on, nobody would have blamed Ferguson's corner for throwing in the towel. But he was too proud, taking an especially bad beating in the 10th to last the distance on his feet. The judges' tallies in favor of Golota, 33-3 (27), were a mere formality, as Hilton Whitaker (USA) and John Poturaj (USA) both scored it 100-89 (the same as THE RING), and Jean Williams (USA) was kind enough to give Ferguson the eighth and score it 99-90.

"I was very impressed with Andrew's boxing ability," said trainer Roger Bloodworth as Golota was preparing to go the hospital to have his bruised left hand looked at. "He showed a lot of patience. Ferguson is an awkward guy, but Andrew took him apart with his jab and his right hand."

When asked about the future for Golota, promoter Dino Duva



Golota drills out-of-shape Ferguson with a right

Photo by Frank Vitucci

replied, "Realistically, the fight Andrew wants most is Mike Tyson. That's no secret. But if a Tyson fight doesn't happen, I'm sure Andrew would be open to the biggest fight possible, and Michael Grant [who headlined the card with a 10th-round kayo of Ahmad Abdin] might be the biggest fight possible."

With Tyson not looking particularly available at the moment, a meeting with Grant would at least provide an opportunity for Golota to fully redeem himself for getting blown out by Lennox Lewis in '97, but he would have to do so as a decided underdog.

Television: HBO
Promoter: Main Events
(1-30-99)
Eric Raskin

Songkram Porpaoin Tech. Win 8 Ronnie Magramo

Pattaya, Thailand: Veteran Thailander Porpaoin, 104½, bleeding too profusely to go on, was awarded a majority technical decision over Filipino slugger Magramo, 105, to acquire the WBA interim minimumweight title at Pattaya City Hall. The interim title was created because reigning champ Ricardo Lopez was preparing to move up to 108 pounds to challenge Saman Sorjaturong for the WBC belt, and if successful, would vacate his 105-pound championships. Porpaoin, who won the abbreviated decision by scores of 78-73 from Takeshi Shimikawa (Japan), 76-74 from Wan Soo Yuh (Korea), and 75-75 from Kazunobu Asao (Japan), would then take over as full-fledged champion.

Before some 10,000 partisan fans, Magramo started furiously in the opening session and took the initiative with his non-stop rallies. Porpaoin, seven years his senior at 33, tried to outpunch the willing mixer with more accurate counters. But the Thailander sustained a cut caused by an accidental butt that would become bigger as the bout progressed.

The third round saw Magramo, 33-10 (28), catch Porpaoin with a straight right, dropping him on the deck for a compulsory eight-count. And from the fourth on, the contest became a terrible mess. Both fighters threw each other around as if they were in a wrestling match. Japanese referee Kazumasa Kuwata took a point from the shorter Filipino for his repeated headbutts in the fourth.

The third man repeatedly had a hard time separating the combatants, insisting futilely that they fight a clean fight. Kuwata deducted another point from Magramo, who was the stronger wrestler, when he threw Porpaoin, 20-1-1 (10), down to the canvas in the eighth. As Porpaoin's cut became very serious with his face in crimson, the ref declared a halt upon the ring physician's advice, and they went to the scorecards after eight rounds.

Porpaoin, who previously failed to win the WBA 105-pound crown from Rosendo Alvarez in 1997, went down in the history books as one-half of only the second set of twins ever to both become world champs, following his brother, former WBA minimumweight champ Chana Porpaoin. The first such twins were also Thai: WBA super fly champ Khaosai Galaxy and WBA bantam ruler Khaokor Galaxy. Strangely enough, both pairs of twins come from the Petchabun Province of Thailand.

Promoter: Niwat Laosuwanwat
(1-30-99)
Joe Koizumi

Cermeno retained the WBA feather belt by knocking out Saenz

Antonio Cermeno KO 2 Eddie Saenz

Miami, Florida: WBA featherweight champ Cermeno's first defense of the title he won last October was no contest. That should have been no surprise given the following facts: 1) Cermeno knocked out Saenz in five rounds to retain the WBA junior featherweight belt in November 1996; 2) Saenz had had only three fights since then, losing one of them; and, 3) Saenz' last fight was 14 months ago. Nonetheless, by virtue of the additional fact that Saenz, 28, holds the WBA Latin American and Caribbean 122-pound titles, he was somehow deemed worthy of a championship rematch.

Both fighters spent the initial three minutes probing each other's defenses for openings. Although the southpaw Saenz, 126, Nicaragua, landed a handful of left hands to the head, Cermeno was unfazed. Cermeno, 126, Venezuela, employed accurate, stinging jabs to win the opening round on all three official scorecards.

Saenz, 17-6-1 (9) with 1 no-contest, opened the second stanza with a decent left-right-right combination, and followed up with several left hands to the head. But Cermeno, 29, pressed the Nicaraguan to the ring ropes and began banging right hands against Saenz' head. The end came suddenly when, with Saenz pinned against the ropes in Cermeno's corner, the champion slammed a left hook into Saenz' midsection. The challenger dropped to his knees and stayed there as referee Max Parker Jr. (USA) tolled a 10-count. The official end came at the 2:55 mark.

Cermeno was gracious in victory, both toward Saenz and the WBA. "There is no easy opponent," said the champion through an interpreter. "I improved just like Saenz tried to improve." When asked whether he was all that motivated in light of his previous stoppage win over Saenz, Cermeno said, "He's who they put me in against, and I had to be ready." Cermeno improved to 35-2 (23). The judges were Peter Trematerra (USA), Tommy Thomas (Trinidad), and Samuel Conde (Puerto Rico).

Television: USSB
Promoter: Don King Productions
(2-5-99)
Ken Knox ■

Michael Grant

(Continued from page 37)

without needing to call upon some of the intangibles that are sure to come into play against the division's elite.

How soon that happens depends on circumstances. The winner of the Evander Holyfield-Lennox Lewis showdown is unlikely to choose Grant as his first defense of the unified title, and anybody who thinks Mike Tyson is going to get into the ring with Grant didn't see Tyson's recent scuffle with Frans Botha. So who's left? HBO Sports Senior Vice President Lou DiBella would love to pit Grant against Andrew Golota, a plan that certainly suits Team Grant. But Main Events, the company that promotes them both, is not quite so enthusiastic.

Golota, 33-3 (27), decisioned an out-of-shape, 41-year-old Jesse Ferguson on the Grant-Abdin card, which was sponsored by Bally's Park Place and held before a packed house at the Atlantic City Convention Center Ballroom. But instead of the old neck-biting, low-blow throwing maniac who rose to fame with a pair of foul-infested DQ losses to Bowe, both live fans and HBO's at-home audience saw the new, safety-first Golota. And while Golota's camp likes to talk about how impressed they are by his newfound control, others are not so sure the change has been altogether positive. Many think that the hulking Pole has looked gun-shy since Lewis splattered him in less than a round in October '97. Still, if the money is tempting enough, a Grant-Golota match could happen this summer.

"Realistically, the fight that Andrew wants the most is Mike Tyson. That's no secret," said Main Events' Dino Duva. "But if a Tyson fight doesn't happen, I'm sure Andrew would be open to the biggest fight possible, and Grant might be the biggest fight possible."

While it would certainly be a step in the right direction, exactly how great of a challenge Golota would provide is debatable. The ultimate test of whether or not Grant can call on heretofore hidden resolve will probably have to wait until a more formidable test can be found. After all, he'd have to go some to top what Lewis did to Golota. As far as Tyson is concerned, Grant seems to consider fighting him a no-win situation.

"Iron Mike is a buffoon," said Grant. "He's already been destroyed three times. I'm younger, bigger, stronger. Beat him, and people would say I beat a nobody."

In the search for the real Michael Grant, it's interesting to compare him with Holyfield, a fighter he's been closely associated with due to their friendship, mutual admiration, and the fact that Turner trains them both. But while Grant has—so far, at least—been able to rely on his size and athletic ability, Holyfield has always been willing to push himself beyond the boundaries imposed by his body in order to achieve goals many considered unreachable. To overcome the physical odds, "The Real Deal" has fought with a passion that frequently borders on maniacal. We have yet to discover if his protege, endowed with a body of Promethean proportions, can do the same. ■

De La Hoya-Quartey

(Continued from page 42)

another left later in the round, the first was enough, in and of itself, to carry the round on all three judges' cards (and mine), 10-9.

Round 11: Perhaps saving themselves for the final round, both men only fought in spurts, and neither of them were especially effective. De La Hoya stalked, but failed to punch with any consistency, and Quartey jabbed without much conviction or success. A late flurry that originally motivated me to give the round to De La Hoya looked nowhere near as impressive in slow-motion, which convinced me to change my score from 10-9 in the champ's favor to a 10-10 stalemate.

Round 12: Whether hoping to salvage victory or, as he later claimed, attempting to put on a show for the fans, De La Hoya charged out for the last round like a man who figured he needed a big round in order to keep the title and remain unbeaten. When Quartey tried to check his advance with a right in the opening seconds, De La Hoya ducked low and to his left, bending at the waist. As he came out of the crouch, he pulled the trigger on a fiendish left hook that drilled Quartey on the jaw and sent him down.

Quartey was still a tad unsteady when he arose, and it wasn't long before De La Hoya trapped him in a corner and unleashed a withering barrage. De La Hoya, always a great finisher, poured on the punches, many of which smacked directly into his dazed opponent's head. Quartey's head was twisted sideways again and again as flush hooks, punches that had rendered 24 of De La Hoya's 29 previous adversaries senseless, plowed into his face. Halpern, who hovered nearby, seemed ready to stop the fight on several occasions, but although Quartey's feeble offerings failed to land, he instinctively kept his own fists churning. There would be no premature ending this time. Halpern handled the situation perfectly, and finally, as De La Hoya became arm weary, Quartey punched his way off the ropes with a pair of rights.

De La Hoya had punched himself out with the breathtaking flurry, and did little but back away from his amazingly resilient challenger the remainder of the round. Had he been able to keep punching, a case could be made for making it a 10-7 round. But as it was, De La Hoya had to settle for a 10-8 margin from the three judges, which was also the way I saw it.

My revised scorecard added up to a 116-113 victory in De La Hoya's favor, as opposed to my initial score of 115-114 for Quartey. And even if I'd given the two even rounds to the challenger, De La Hoya would still have won, 114-113. Obviously, fights cannot be judged by some guy sitting around looking at replays the next day. Judges have to make their call on the spot, and in this case they did a pretty good job.

Round-by-round scoring is not the only way to determine the winner. One gets an overall impression of a fight, and as I added my scorecard at ringside, I was troubled by the arithmetic. Even though I had Quartey ahead, De La Hoya's exhilarating finish, plus the fact that he'd scored two knockdowns to Quartey's one, simply didn't jibe with my tally. In hindsight, I believe the uneasy feeling I had regarding my original score was justified. In general, my mind had accurately interpreted the

fight, but although I had a clear and unobstructed sight line from my sixth-row press seat, I wasn't near enough to the action to see the all-important subtleties that mean so much in such a close fight.

How close was it? Well, the punchstats compiled by CompuBox tell us that De La Hoya, 30-0 (24), connected with 206 of 551 punches thrown, while Quartey, 34-1-1 (29), threw 608 and landed 201. That's a difference of only *five* scoring punches in 12 rounds! No wonder the decision has led to so much disagreement. It is, therefore, helpful to turn to other criteria to gain a greater understanding of what transpired.

I've always felt that one of the main advantages of watching a fight live is that you get a greater sense of how hard a punch is and how hurt the recipient is by it. And in the case of De La Hoya-Quartey, I got the impression that, overall, De La Hoya hurt Quartey more than Quartey hurt De La Hoya. The stats bear this out. In CompuBox's powerpunch category, De La Hoya outscored Quartey by 115 to 84, with much of De La Hoya's total coming during his 12th-round onslaught.

There's also the unwritten rule that says a challenger has to "take the title away from the champion." But as long as we continue to use a points system to adjudicate prize fights, this is basically a crock. Technically, if a challenger wins a decision by one point on two of the three official cards, he's the new champ. Even so, it doesn't seem right to take the belt away from a champion when the challenger is on the wrong end of a frightful beating in the last round of a truly close bout.

Some people like to compare the way fighters look at the end of a fight to determine who inflicted the most damage. And while this is a highly imprecise method, those who favor it should not be too quick to anoint Quartey the winner. Although the left side of De La Hoya's handsome face was swollen and the area directly under the eye an ugly shade of purple, by the time Quartey got to the postfight press conference, he also bore the marks of battle. The right side of his face, the side that absorbed so many of De La Hoya's hooks in the final round, was a protruding ridge of swollen flesh from the top of his eyebrow to the bottom of his cheek.

It was, when all is said and done, a fight that cried out for a rematch. Quartey, who predicted beforehand that he couldn't win a decision in Las Vegas, would be more than willing to do it again as soon as possible. De La Hoya, on the other hand, sounded less than enthralled with the idea, saying that there are "bigger fights and better fights out there." Maybe he's right, but the best way to convince those who thought he lost would be to fight Quartey again. Maybe the next time one of them would win so convincingly, nobody would need to watch replays to figure out who it was. ■

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New Faces

(Continued from page 18)

needs to mature more in the ring. You can say I basically helped raise him, he was over my house all of the time. All I was trying to do was steer him in the right direction and be a positive example to him."

The Pensacola, Florida, native became acquainted with Jones through his uncle, Lemuel Jones, who knew Roy Jones Sr. It was Nelson's uncle who got him involved with boxing when he was seven. It was something positive, his uncle felt, that could occupy his young nephew's idle time. Nelson's father was constantly on the move in the military. He died of an illness when Nelson was 12, but by that time, Nelson was already spending large portions of his time at Jones' house.

Nelson's mother did the best she could, trying to raise him by herself, but Nelson wanted a strong male role model to follow, and he certainly found one in Jones.

"Being around Roy, I learned that there is nothing easy in life," Nelson said. "Roy went through a lot of hard stuff, and it's paid off for him. He laid the path for us. You should be able to walk the path alone. I was fortunate, not everyone has some people like Roy

to lead the way to a path. You have certain people who won't look back from where they came from and help the next person. But Roy does that. Some people may make judgments about Roy, and that's because they don't know him. Roy and I are still really close. He's like a stepdad or a big brother to me. Roy always warned me about never trying to cheat myself.

"I'm the type of person who wanted the better things in life. It wasn't easy growing up, and it's hard living, period. My mother did a lot for us, as much as she could. When my father was living, he did a lot, too, but wasn't around like a normal dad would be. My mom was my mom *and* my dad, and Roy was my big brother and stepdad. People think of Roy as a great boxer first. I don't. I think of him as a great person."

Nelson's victory over Adams was the first time Nelson went beyond eight rounds. Alton Merkerson, his trainer who also works with Jones, likes the way Nelson moves in the ring. Nelson does not have great power, as his pal Jones does, but he does possess a solid punch and strong boxing skills. Merkerson feels Nelson has the stamina and talent to be a top boxer, but that doesn't mean Nelson doesn't still have some things he needs to work on. Because of his short arms, Merkerson is trying to get Nelson to work inside more.

"Lemuel is basically a boxer," Merkerson said. "Lemuel was trained by Roy's dad and has good ring knowledge. He was taught the way Roy was taught. One of the things I really like about Lemuel is his counterpunching. He has an ability to slip punches, and when someone misses, Lemuel can counter and move into him. That's what we're working on now, what he needs to do when he does get inside. The kid does have all the things that go along with what makes up a great fighter."

Nelson's mother, Sontoria, couldn't be more pleased with her son's accomplishments. She knows the good things in life he has been denied, and that boxing is his way of getting them. While some mothers do not like to look when their sons are in the ring, she's all right watching her quiet, shy son fight. She knows the dedication and infinite hours he's committed to the sport.

"At first, I didn't think he was going to get into it the way he has," Sontoria said. "I always told him to pursue whatever he wanted to. I had to work late at night, then get them up in the morning and send them out to school. Lemuel remembers that; he didn't like it. All I wanted Lemuel to do was stay in school and graduate, that was my goal for him. I always wanted to see Lemuel get what he wants out of life."

Now she would like her son to become a world champion. She feels Jones' father, Roy Sr., was not only a great example to Roy, but to both kids growing up. Unfortunately, the split between Roy and his father left Nelson in limbo. For a two-year span, Nelson stopped boxing competitively and grabbed a few odd jobs to keep his belly full. He lost his motivation to fight and, briefly, the stable foundation he could always rely on. Everything Nelson had worked for seemed to be in jeopardy. For one thing, Nelson was training hard every day, and was not seeing any dividends. He was not fighting as much as he needed to make a living.

"That was a setback," Nelson recalled. "I was in the middle of all of that feud between Roy and his dad. I loved Roy, and I loved his dad. When his dad left, everything was out on hold. It was hard to get back into the swing of things; I wasn't motivated anymore, I wasn't hungry. Roy and I always used to sit together and talk about my future. I didn't want all that training and hard work I did to go to waste. I wanted to give myself a fair chance."

So he began fighting again with good results. He won eight of his first nine pro fights by knockout, before suffering his first loss as a pro to Jose Manjarrez in a six-round decision in April of 1997. Last year, he experienced a second setback, an eight-round loss to the feisty, determined John "The Eastern Beast" Brown. Nelson chalked up the loss to nothing more than a bad night. Brown, Nelson felt, was not hurting him. Yet Nelson's attack was tentative, at best.

Nelson is starting to get that same success crawling over furniture in his home. Currently, a slew of trophies from his amateur days fill a stand in his grandmother's house. Now, Nelson is working his way toward championship belts.

"Roy will stick his hand out to help anyone, as long as you show him that you're trying," said Nelson. "You have to be able to help yourself first. Roy's helped me do that." ■

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Readers' Poll

(Continued from page 34)

Are you in favor of women's boxing?

Yes 57.0%
No.....43.0%

Is women's boxing here to stay? Our readers' poll doesn't offer a clear answer to that question, but the ladies' game at least gets the majority decision at the moment. Many fans commented that they felt the women deserved the right to make a living, even if they themselves were not big fans.

Is Butterbean good or bad (or neither) for boxing?

Neither.....40.3%
Bad.....30.9%
Good 28.8%

It wouldn't quite be accurate to say the majority of our readers don't care one way or another about Butterbean, but the "neither" vote did capture a win by a plurality. The tighter race was between the "bad" and the "good," with the anti-Bean faction squeaking out the victory.

Are you in favor of headgear for pros?

No.....93.6%
Yes 6.4%

In the most resoundingly one-sided response to the yes-and-no portion of the survey, the suggestion of requiring headgear for professionals was shot down fiercely. Though many readers commented that headgear was fine for amateurs, most felt such an idea would destroy the pro game.

Should pros be allowed to box in the Olympics?

No 85.5%
Yes.....14.5%

Again, the readers strongly opposed a suggestion for radical change, feeling that while the Olympic spirit has been tarnished by having professionals compete in many other sports, they didn't want the same to happen in boxing. One reader commented that even if pros were allowed to fight in the Olympics, not many would want to go back to fighting for free after they've tasted professional money anyway.

Are you in favor of the standing eight-count?

Yes.....67.8%
No 32.2%

In light of the recent controversial endings to the Floyd Mayweather-Angel Manfredy bout and the David Tua-Hasim Rahman clash, this question gained relevance—and the standing eight-count gained support late in the voting. With over two-thirds of the vote, THE RING's readers sent out the message that they advocate the eight-count. But it's important to bear in mind that many fans value entertainment over safety, whereas boxing commissions feel the opposite.

Are you in favor of a Federal boxing commission?

Yes 77.3%
No.....22.7%

Though it's hard to say exactly how a Federal boxing commission would operate, more than three out of every four respondents were in favor of giving it a try. The general feeling is that if a Federal commission can cut down on alphabet banditry, then the boxing public is firmly in favor.

What rule change would you most like to see?

1. *Return to 15-round title fights* 21.9%
2. *Eliminate WBC headbutt rule (automatic deduction for uncut fighter)* ..17.9%
3. *Eliminate three-knockdown rule* ..13.2%
4. *Eliminate weigh-ins the day before the fight* 7.1%
5. *Eliminate the standing eight-count* 5.6%
6. *Enforce the standing eight-count in all states*.....5.1%
7. *Reduce to one governing body* 3.6%
8. *Show judges' scores between each round* 3.1%
9. *(tie) Eliminate being saved by the bell in all rounds*.....2.0%
9. *(tie) Penalize fighters for holding, rather than repeated warnings*.....2.0%
9. *(tie) Rule no-contest, not tech. draw, on accidental-foul stoppages* 2.0%

Others receiving votes (16.5%): Require CATscans between bouts, enforce the three-knockdown rule in all states, eliminate mandatory defenses, refs should finish count rather than calling a TKO, use Velcro on gloves instead of tape, biting should be legal, eliminate neutral-corner rule, doctor shouldn't be allowed to stop fight, doctor should be allowed to stop fight, eliminate 12-rounders, ref should still be allowed to judge fight, allow fighters to be saved by the bell in all rounds, have a uniform ring size, eliminate the 10-point must system, ban women's boxing, abolish championships, fighters coming off a loss shouldn't be allowed to challenge for title, hitting below the belt should automatically cost one point, it should be possible to overturn bad decisions, throwing in the towel should automatically end fight, allow one legal low blow per round, allow 10 minutes to recover from foul, eliminate the rule where you're allowed to resume your career when you bite someone's ear to avoid a first-class ass-whipping

Jose Sulaiman obviously didn't stuff the ballots, as the top two finishers here were a direct response to the WBC chief's policies. Sulaiman has suggested that even 12 rounds is too much for a title fight, but a great many of our readers want to go back to the way it used to be, with 15-rounders. Also, the WBC's rule where a fighter is punished for inflicting a cut during a clash of heads was vehemently opposed as well.

Who do you predict will be the number-one pound-for-pound fighter in five years?

1. *Shane Mosley*.....27.1%
2. *Floyd Mayweather*.....25.2%
3. *Fernando Vargas*.....9.8%
4. *(tie) Oscar De La Hoya* 4.7%
4. *(tie) Michael Grant* 4.7%
6. *Felix Trinidad* 3.7%
7. *(tie) Roy Jones* 3.3%
7. *(tie) Erik Morales*.....3.3%
9. *(tie) Naseem Hamed* 2.8%
9. *(tie) David Reid* 2.8%

Others receiving votes (12.6%): Tim Austin, Luis Bolano, Chris Byrd, Yory Boy Campas, Joel Casamayor, Jesus Chavez, Ike Ibeabuchi, Zab Judah, Angel Manfredy, Juan Manuel Marquez, Dariusz Michalczewski, Jose Antonio Rivera, Jo-el Scott, Antonio Tarver, Mike Tyson, Ricardo Williams Jr.

Imagine you are reading the June 2004 issue of THE RING. Could this conceivably be our pound-for-pound list? Holding off a late surge from Floyd Mayweather, Shane Mosley, who will be 32 years old five years from now, captured the top spot, with '96 Olympians Mayweather and Fernando Vargas filling out the next two positions. We also received three perfectly logical but less daring votes claiming that the number-one pound-for-pound fighter in five years will be someone we haven't yet heard of. ■

Antwun Echols

(Continued from page 45)

show. Pelullo was shocked to learn that Echols had no promotional entanglements. When he signed him to a contract shortly afterward, the promoter was nothing short of elated.

"I knew I had shaken hands with the future middleweight champion of the world," said Pelullo. "I could not believe what I had seen. The power he displayed was incredible. It didn't take me long to realize this kid was a future world champion and a potential superstar. He has it all."

Such promotional hyperbole is common, but in this case, Pelullo's enthusiastic endorsement is understandable. Since signing with the Philadelphia-based promoter, Echols has rattled off a succession of impressive victories, won the USBA and NABF middleweight titles, and is now rated in the top three of all the major sanctioning bodies. In his most notable victory to date, he survived a thudding body attack and an eighth-round knockdown to score a brutal knockout of highly ranked Brian Barbosa in February '98. He not only took Barbosa's USBA title, but won the vacant NABF crown as well. He has since defended those titles against the IBF number-eight ranked Urbano Gurrola, as well as durable journeymen Kevin Tillman and Roland Rangel.

In his most recent fight, against Rangel on January 22 at the Horseshoe Casino in Tunica, Mississippi, Echols displayed his very fast and deadly accurate punching ability and showed that he could conceivably live up to all the hype he has been garnering. Although Rangel has been stopped by just about every notable opponent he has faced, he is usually tough and resilient for at least a few rounds. Against Echols, he crumpled in the second round after a swarming and debilitating two-fisted attack. If nothing else, the victory served notice to his fellow 160-pounders that there is a fearsome new presence in their midst. If all goes according to plan, Echols will face undefeated Englishman Robert McCracken in a WBC elimination bout in the spring.

"This is what I've been waiting for a long time," Echols said. "I have nothing but respect for all of my opponents and am not trying to be cocky, but I honestly feel there is nobody out there that can beat me. Not [IBF titlist] Bernard Hopkins, not Robert Allen, not [WBA champ William] Joppy. Nobody. They are all class fighters, but they can't do anything with me."

Echols is tall for a middleweight at 5'11" and uses that height, as well as his 75-inch reach, to bring Thomas Hearns-like leverage to his punches. Many of Echols' critics believe him to be nothing more than a one-dimensional puncher who will be exposed just as soon as he fights a world-class opponent. Echols, however, sees himself as a complete fighter.

"Against Barbosa, I didn't rely on my power," he said. "I boxed in the early rounds, and worked very hard on my defense. I feel that I am showing improvement all the way around."

What he didn't say was that he had to come from behind to take out Barbosa, providing even more fodder for the naysayers.

"Antwun is a very smart young man, and knows he has to rely on more than just his power at the level he is at now," said manager Jim Fulton, a successful Kansas City businessman and owner of that city's East Side Gym. "He didn't even get started with boxing until he was 18, so in many ways he is still new to the game. He can knock anybody out with one punch and is willing to take one to give one, but he is working on his other skills everyday. By the end of this year, everything will come together and he will be a champion. I guarantee that."

Considering the fact that Echols only started fighting eight years ago, it is astounding just how far he has come. Less than two years after entering Pena's Boxing Club in Davenport for the first time, he found himself in the '92 Olympic Box-offs against the eventual United States representative Raul Marquez. Echols stunned Marquez in the third round and followed up with a hard combination of punches that had Marquez on the verge of a knockout loss. The timekeeper rang the bell after only 1:32, causing a maelstrom of confusion. It took officials several minutes to figure out what had happened. That proved to be enough time for Marquez to recover and go on to win a 78-43 decision. Echols, who believes, "they cheated me, plain and simple," had no shortage of supporters in his corner.

One of them was team coach Joe Byrd, who is also the father of fellow Olympian and current heavyweight contender Chris Byrd. He was quoted in Echols' hometown paper, the *Quad City Times*, as saying, "At the time the bell rang, Antwun was on the verge of stopping him. That's the way I saw it. I've been involved in boxing for 34 years, and have never seen anything like it."

Although Echols served as an alternate on the team, he soon returned to Davenport a dejected young man. His fighting spirit temporarily drained, he did not turn pro until May '93, when he was unceremoniously starched in the first round of his first fight by perennial loser Anthony Ivory. At the time, Ivory was 11-13 (5), and now, with over 60 fights on his resume, has lost more than twice as many as he has won. Echols said that defeat was the result of a host of personal problems, and insists it did not accurately reflect in any way who he was or where he was going as a fighter.

"That fight was embarrassing, but it didn't hurt me at all," Echols insisted. "It was just a fight to me, nothing more. That's all."

Two months later, he embarked on a 14-fight, 39-month winning streak that ended when he lost a close decision to Chris Johnson in Canada. Not only did the fight take place in Johnson's home country, but Johnson was also a beloved Olympic medalist. Seven weeks after that, Echols returned to Canada and fought to a disputed draw with another local favorite, Eric Lucas. Those are the only blemishes on his impressive ring 22-2-1 (22) ledger.

"I admit those fights were disappointments for me, but I wasn't going to let them ruin my dream of becoming a champion," Echols said.

Although born in Memphis, Echols grew up in Dade City, Florida, and Davenport, and is the first to admit he

was no stranger to trouble for much of his life. To this day, he is not certain who his father is, a fact that has gnawed at him for years and contributed to him being, in his own words, "a violent kid." He still has vivid memories of battling against the odds for as long as he can remember.

"People have always put me down and said I wouldn't make it in anything," Echols recalled. "I was always fighting in the streets and getting into trouble, so I thought I should do something with [my anger]. I met Michael Nunn when I started out, so that helped with my motivation."

Nunn is the only other notable professional to ever hail from Davenport, and he and Echols have become extremely close friends over the years. The biggest boost for Echols, however, was the relationship he developed with Alvino Pena, the owner of the gym where he trains to this day when in town.

"Alvino is like a father figure to me and has been a real positive influence in my life," Echols said. "He has helped me in so many ways, and got me through so many ups and downs. He still travels with me everywhere, and is responsible for so much of my success."

Fulton, who was introduced to Echols through his advisory relationship with Nunn, has only been managing him for about a year. But he said Echols has grown significantly as both a fighter and as a person in that short time span because he is so committed to positive self-development.

"Antwun is a very sincere young man, and just a real happy-go-lucky guy," Fulton said. "He grew up in absolute poverty, but through boxing has been shown another side of life. He wants to be somebody and get somewhere, and knows boxing is the way to do it. He's got a lot of natural ability, but he's also got a lot of inner drive. They will both take him a long way."

Fulton realizes that Echols has had his share of trouble, and is immensely impressed with the way he has turned things around.

"After the [Rangel] fight, we went into the bathroom and had a little talk," the manager explained. "We talked about the victory, but we also talked about staying focused and being responsible. I explained every detail about the fight and about the business. He didn't just ask a lot of questions, he asked a lot of intelligent questions. In the beginning, he would just stare and listen. Then we hugged."

Not only has Echols developed greatly on the pugilistic and emotional fronts, but he has been letting the lighter side of himself finally show as well. Against Rangel, he adapted a Dennis Rodman look, complete with red and white flamed trunks and bright orange hair. He has vowed to dye his hair a different color in all future fights. At the final prefight press conference, he waited until it was Rangel's time to talk, then wandered into the audience and asked a few questions about himself to his opponent. The hilarious antic not only ingratiated him to the assembled press, but made Rangel roar with laughter as well. Echols makes it clear that this is just a business, and there is no reason why foes can't be friends everywhere but inside the ring.

While he sounds awfully convincing when saying that, the tone of his voice belies those feelings when talking about other prospective opponents. He considers Hopkins the best middleweight in the world and would "love to start with him, then go after the other guys." He said McCracken's "days are numbered," and that Joppy "will be taken out, too."

While promoted by Don King earlier in his career, Echols served as a regular sparring partner for Terry Norris, Julian Jackson, and Simon Brown during their championship reigns. "I walked over them, so I never could understand why Don put me on the shelf for so long," Echols said. "I scored a knockout in Ecuador [in December '94 against Edgar Borja] on the undercard of Hopkins-Segundo Mercado, and didn't fight again for four months. And I was beating his best fighters sparring in the gym. I would have thought he'd take more of an interest in me."

While Echols feels there has been an abundance of wasted time in his career, Fulton says one of the fighter's greatest attributes is the fact that "he doesn't dwell on anything negative, and doesn't sit around and brood." The way Echols sees it, because he spent so much time being a "violent, stupid kid," now is the time to make amends not only to himself, but to the others who have stood by him. As strong as he is mentally, there is still no shortage of demons around Davenport. While many people view Iowa as a land of cornfields and Midwestern earthiness and charm, Davenport, which is a two-hour drive from Chicago and three hours from St. Louis, is full of gang bangers and drug dealers. Because Echols has chosen what he calls "another path in life," he has met with much resistance from many of the people he grew up with.

"I took this road, and they took that road," he said. "I almost went the other way, but I guided myself the right way through boxing. I come from a large family, 12 brothers and sisters, and I'm the only one that got into trouble. I didn't start boxing until late, but that has worked to my advantage. Most boxers start at nine or 10, and put so much wear and tear on their body by the time they are my age. I'm a young 26, with a lot of good years left."

Echols loves Davenport, and would like nothing more than to be a good representative of it. But like so much else in his life, that has not proven to be an easy task. Whenever Nunn returned home, he regularly appeared in the police blotters, and the same thing happened to Echols last August when he was arrested on weapons and stalking charges. Echols said the incident began at a convenience store when a woman who had seen him on television said, "So you think you're somebody?" Words were exchanged and several of her male friends arrived and tried to engage him in a fight. Later, the woman claimed Echols chased them in his auto and fired shots into her car.

According to Fulton, a check of the camera at the convenience store proved that Echols was at the store at the time of occurrence, and all of the charges were subsequently dropped. But the incident gave Fulton the ammunition to try to convince him to train in the safer confines of Kansas City. Echols would rather stay at home, but is miffed over the fact that the only time Davenport athletes seem to get significant coverage in the press is when they are in trouble.

"I want to go to schools and companies, and talk about motivation and work-

ing your way to the top," he said. "I have a good message, and would do it for free. But they're not interested."

Echols' life seems to be full of contradictions. Despite the fighter's tough-guy persona, he is loving to his family, which includes a sibling with Down's syndrome and five children of his own, aged seven to three. He's a fearless knockout artist in the ring, but he is terrified of flying. In a world of false bravado, he is quick to admit that he usually drives to all of his fights. When asked about that seemingly statistically baseless fear, his answer provided perhaps the greatest insight into how much he has changed for the better.

"Flying didn't bother me when I was younger and going to all the amateur tournaments," Echols said. "All that turbulence, I didn't even think about the danger. But now I really want to live life. Life is so much better now, so I don't want to take any chances." ■

Robert Mladinich is a freelance writer based in New York City and a regular contributor to this magazine.

Ted Lowry

(Continued from page 49)

boxing and worldly wisdom to youngsters at the Greater Norwalk Boxing Association two nights a week, and tries to spend time with his five sons from a previous marriage, as well as Alice's son, whom he considers his own. All have fine careers, ranging from counselor, law student, and minister to male nurse and manager of a janitorial service.

It is readily apparent that he is much more than a boxing mentor to the students at the gym. "I am very lucky to have found him," said 19-year-old Chris Hauptman, "because he has encouraged and motivated me, and is like a father to me." Marlene Eicholz, a 32-year-old technical writer calls him a "great teacher who encourages peer review and always uses positive, not negative reinforcement." In addition, she adds, "He just loves helping people out; he's a very kind, gentle, and generous man who always seems so interested in what you're doing."

While all of them were aware that he fought the mythical Marciano, few ever heard about it from him because Lowry is much too humble to talk about himself. It was only after a writer arrived on a rainy autumn night that they saw his voluminous scrapbook, as well as the extremely well-written autobiographical memoir that, if it is ever published, will either be called *God's In My Corner: A Portrait Of An American Boxer*, or *The Autobiography Of Tiger Ted Lowry: A Man Who Owned A Piece Of The Rock.* The extremely articulate and affable Lowry has a memory like an elephant and recounted a host of exploits in and out of the ring that more resemble a fictional Hollywood script than the true life saga of a prize fighter. Not only does he eloquently describe the daily regimen of a journeyman boxer with gutbucket grittiness and existential realism, he describes how the hardscrabble life of a boxer relates to love and family, racism, military service, and the conflicting worlds of fame and obscurity. While he was never considered a top-rated fighter, he is a world-class raconteur and very credible writer whose love of life and altruistic enthusiasm is as great now as it was a half-century ago.

"I'm a very lucky man, and have had a great life," he said. "While boxing, I never took a beating, and if I got knocked down, I always got back up. I guess that kind of applies to my life, too. Boxing is still in my blood, I guess it always will be. That's why I love coming to this gym so much, to be around these kids and help them believe they can do things they don't think they can do. To me, that is the greatest satisfaction of all."

Asked for the umpteenth time if he is ever saddled with the unwelcome weight of regret over the Marciano fights, he insists that the experience has actually brought him much more joy than despair. "I realize that people only remember me because of Rocky Marciano," he explained. "That's understandable because he was a fine champion and a fine man. But here it is, 40 years later, and you're here talking to me. You make me feel like a celebrity." ■

Robert Mladinich, a freelance writer based in New York City, is a regular contributor to this magazine.

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HOLYFIELD/MOORER or HOLYFIELD/HOLMES..$35. ea.
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LEONARD/DURAN II.....$50.
LEONARD/DURAN.....$125.
LEONARD/HEARNS or LEONARD/HEARNS II..$65. ea.
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PAZIENZA/DURAN II or PAZIENZA/ROSENBLATT..$20. ea.
TYSON/BRUNO or TYSON/HOLMES.....$100. ea.
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BOXING COLLECTOR'S NOTEBOOK

By Don Scott

Many people collect to remember the fighters and fights that have made a lasting impression on them. This need seems even more heightened after a hero of the ring has heard the final bell. We want to have something associated with that fighter to help us recall the man and his career.

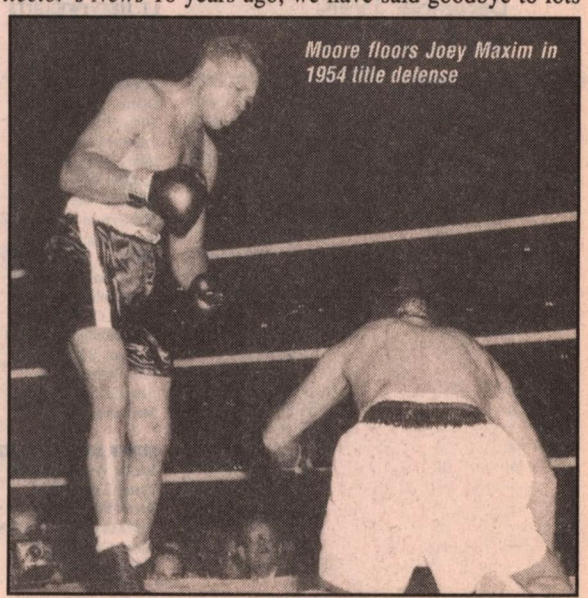
Since Archie Moore's death last December, there has been a flurry of activity surrounding his collectibles. Autograph dealers report that sales of signed material are brisk and that there has been additional interest in posters, cards, and programs. We are fortunate that Moore had such a long and storied career, since he has left us with a wealth of memorabilia.

While early Moore items are hard to find, there's lots of stuff around from his major fights after he became champion in 1952. The program and ticket from Moore's June '55 fight with Bobo Olson in Yankee Stadium are fairly common, as are similar items from his fight with Rocky Marciano. Even though these pieces are not hard to find, because it was "The Rock's" last fight, they are expensive. A poster for the Marciano-Moore fight was recently sold at an auction for more than $2,000.

Moore fought outside of the United States quite a bit, and some of his South American posters have emerged. Generally, these are not well done, but can still fetch a steep price due to their scarcity. Two Moore programs are also highly prized and difficult to find: the championship fight with fellow Hall of Famer Harold Johnson at Madison Square Garden and the first Yvon Durelle fight. The program from the first Durelle fight is unusual in several respects. As the bout was held in Montreal, Canada, it's printed in both French and English. It's also a modified Montreal Forum program with a hockey player on the front. But perhaps the most sought-after program and ticket from Moore's career was from his 1962 fight with Cassius Clay. Posters of the Clay-Moore fight are also available, but challenging to find.

Moore appeared in card sets beginning with exhibit cards in the late-'40s and running through the modern sets of the '90s. There are also some pinback buttons from the '40s and '50s. As Moore was a tireless signer, there is much authentic signed material available. Signed photos can be had for less than $40 and signed gloves for less than $90. So don't get caught up and pay more.

Since I began publishing *Boxing Collector's News* 10 years ago, we have said goodbye to lots of great fighters, but few have moved me as much as the passing of "The Old Mongoose." I have a memory of sitting at Graziano's bar in Canastota, New York, on a Sunday evening one Hall of Fame weekend and chatting with Moore while he sipped coffee and quietly spoke of boxing and his life. That's a memory I wouldn't trade for any collectible. Rest in peace, champ. And to all of you who can make it, I'll see you in Canastota in June for the next International Boxing Hall of Fame inductions. ■



Moore floors Joey Maxim in 1954 title defense

Don Scott can be contacted c/o Boxing Collector's News, 3316 Luallen Drive, Carrollton, Texas 75007.

WORLDWIDE RATINGS

The ratings of the three major governing bodies recognized by The Ring are supplied by the organizations themselves. They are updated on these pages as soon as they are made available to us. In this issue, the WBA ratings were compiled as of January 1999, the WBC as of December 1998, and the IBF as of January 1999.

HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lennox Lewis (GB)	C	–	–
Evander Holyfield (USA)	–	C	C
John Ruiz (USA)	1	2	3
Zeljko Mavrovic (CROA)	2	10	–
Ray Mercer (USA)	3	–	8
David Tua (NZ)	4	–	1
Vitali Klitchko (UKR)	5	9	–
Michael Grant (USA)	6	6	–
Andrew Golota (POL)	7	12	–
Larry Donald (USA)	8	3	4
Axel Schulz (GER)	9	–	–
Shannon Briggs (USA)	10	–	–
Henry Akinwande (GB)	–	1	6
Kirk Johnson (CAN)	–	4	11
Oleg Maskaev (UKR)	22	5	–
Jade Scott (USA)	25	7	–
Mike Tyson (USA)	–	8	–
Francois Botha (SA)	23	–	2
Hasim Rahman (USA)	27	–	5
Vaughn Bean (USA)	–	–	7
Chris Byrd (USA)	14	–	9
Robert Hawkins (USA)	–	–	10

CRUISERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Juan Carlos Gomez (CUBA)	C	–	–
Fabrice Tiozzo (FRA)	–	C	–
Arthur Williams (USA)	–	–	C
Marcelo Dominguez (ARG)	1	–	9
Dale Brown (CAN)	2	11	–
Johnny Nelson (GB)	3	–	–
Vassiliy Jirov (KAZ)	4	8	7
Ken Murphy (USA)	5	3	4
Stefan Anghern (SWI)	6	–	–
Terry Dunstan (GB)	7	–	8
Saul Montana (MEX)	8	1	1
Alexei Ilin (RUS)	9	–	–
Bruce Scott (GB)	10	–	–
Robert Daniels (USA)	19	2	–
Nate Miller (USA)	–	4	–
Virgil Hill (USA)	20	5	–
Stefan Anghern (SWI)	–	6	–
Valery Vikhor (LAT)	24	7	–
Ezequiel Paixao (BRA)	–	9	–
Bruce Scott (GB)	–	10	–
Vacant	–	–	2
Stefan Anghem (SWI)	–	–	3
Imamu Mayfield (USA)	16	12	5
Ramon Garbey (CUB)	13	–	6
Andre Purlette (GUY)	18	–	10

LT. HEAVYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Roy Jones (USA)	C	C	–
Reggie Johnson (USA)	–	–	C
Richard Frazier (USA)	1	–	–
Montell Griffin (USA)	2	–	–
Derrick Harmon (USA)	3	7	9
Michael Nunn (USA)	4	–	–
Crawford Ashley (GB)	5	6	2
Henry Wharton (GB)	6	–	–
Lou Del Valle (USA)	7	3	4
Hisashi Teraji (JAP)	8	–	–
Muhammad Siluvangi (ZAI)	9	12	8
David Telesco (USA)	10	4	5
Vacant	–	1	1
Dario Matteoni (ARG)	–	2	–
Eric Harding (USA)	15	5	–
Lincoln Carter (USA)	–	8	10
Glenn Kelly (AUSTRL)	24	9	11
Anthony Bigeni (AUS)	–	10	–
Will Taylor (USA)	18	–	3
Antonio Tarver (USA)	22	–	6
Mark Prince (GB)	–	–	7

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Richie Woodhall (GB)	C	–	–
Frank Liles (USA)	–	C	–
Sven Ottke (GER)	–	–	C
Vincenzo Nardiello (ITA)	1	–	–
Glenn Catley (GB)	2	–	–
Eric Lucas (CAN)	3	5	–
Thomas Tate (USA)	4	3	1
Dean Francis (GB)	5	–	–
Robin Reid (GB)	6	–	11
Zafarou Ballogou (TOGO)	7	9	3
David Starie (GB)	8	7	8
Bruno Girard (FRA)	9	2	–
Chris Johnson (CAN)	10	11	–
Byron Mitchell (USA)	12	1	4
Jorge Castro (ARG)	–	4	–
Mads Larsen (DEN)	17	6	–
Paul Smallman (AUS)	–	8	–
Manuel Siacca (PR)	–	10	–
Charles Brewer (USA)	–	–	2
Rick Thornberry (AUST)	28	–	5
Antoine Byrd (USA)	–	–	6
Giovanni Nardiello (ITA)	20	–	7
Andrei Shkalikov (RUS)	–	12	9
Dean Francis (GB)	–	–	10

MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hassine Cherifi (FRA)	C	–	–
William Joppy (USA)	–	C	–
Bernard Hopkins (USA)	–	–	C
Robert McCracken (GB)	1	7	3
Antwun Echols (USA)	2	–	–
Stephane Ouelette (CAN)	3	–	–
Keith Holmes (USA)	4	4	6
Kevin Palmer (USA)	5	–	–
Winky Wright (USA)	6	6	–
Giovanni Pretorius (SA)	7	8	4
Agostino Cardamone (ITA)	8	9	–
Ali Ennebati (FRA)	9	–	–
Julio Cesar Vazquez (ARG)	10	–	–
Darren Obah (AUSTRL)	–	1	–
Julio Cesar Green (DR)	12	2	7
Rito Ruvalcaba (MEX)	–	3	–
Antwun Echols (USA)	–	5	–
Ramon Moyano (ARG)	27	10	–
Robert Allen (USA)	–	–	1
Antwun Echols (USA)	–	–	2
Anthony Andrews (GUY)	–	–	5
Brian Barbosa (USA)	23	–	8
Peter Venancio (BRA)	–	–	9
Lansana Djallo (JUI)	–	–	10

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Keith Mullings (USA)	C	–	–
Laurent Boudouani (FRA)	–	C	–
Fernando Vargas (USA)	–	–	C
Javier Castillejo (SPA)	1	12	10
Tony Marshall (USA)	2	7	–
David Reid (USA)	3	9	7
Davide Ciarlante (ITA)	4	–	–
Mamadou Thiam (FRA)	5	3	–
Kookyui Song (KOR)	6	–	–
Raul Marquez (USA)	7	–	4
James Coker (USA)	8	–	–
Kevin Kelly (USA)	9	1	–
Rodney Jones (USA)	10	10	–
Guillermo Jones (PAN)	–	2	–
Emmett Linton (USA)	–	4	9
Pedro Ortega (MEX)	–	5	–
Jose Luis Lopez (MEX)	–	6	–
Raul Frank (GUY)	30	8	–
Vacant	–	–	1
Vacant	–	–	2
Earnie Artango (AUSTRL)	27	–	3
Carl Daniels (USA)	–	–	5
Yory Boy Campas (MEX)	11	–	6
Winky Wright (USA)	–	–	8

WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Oscar De La Hoya (USA)	C	–	–
James Page (USA)	–	C	–
Felix Trinidad (PR)	–	–	C
Derrell Coley (USA)	1	5	5
Ike Quartey (GHA)	2	9	–
Shannan Taylor (AUSTRL)	3	3	11
Vernon Forrest (USA)	4	12	4
Nicolas Cervera (COL)	5	–	–
Jose Luis Lopez (MEX)	6	–	–
Maxim Nesterenko (RUS)	7	7	–
Oba Carr (USA)	8	1	8
Daniel Santos (PR)	9	–	12
Frankie Randall (USA)	10	–	–
Frank Olsen (DEN)	16	2	–
Andrew Lewis (GUY)	19	4	–
Sergio Acuna (ARG)	12	6	–
Andrei Pestraiev (RUS)	–	8	–
Michael Trabant (GERE)	27	10	–
Vincent Pettway (USA)	–	–	1
Hugo Pineda (COL)	–	–	2
Raul Frank (USA)	–	–	3
Mahenge Zulu (ZAI)	–	–	6
Sam Garr (GA)	–	–	7
Antonio Marqurito (MEX)	–	–	9
Michael Covington (USA)	–	–	10

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Vacant	C	–	–
Sharmba Mitchell (USA)	–	C	–
Vince Phillips (USA)	–	–	C
Miguel Angel Gonzalez (MEX)	1	6	–
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	2	11	–
Reggie Green (USA)	3	4	4
Lawrence Ngobeni (SA)	4	–	–
Diobelis Hurtado (CUB)	5	–	–
Rafael Ruelas (MEX)	6	–	–
Khalid Rahilou (FRA)	7	2	–
Zab Judah (USA)	8	–	2
Mauro Lucero (MEX)	9	–	–
Jongkil Kim (KOR)	10	–	–
Virgil McClendon (USA)	–	1	5
Elio Ortiz (VEN)	–	3	12
Fred Pendleton (USA)	–	5	9
Juan Coggi (ARG)	–	7	11
Junichi Ono (JAP)	–	8	–
Lonnie Smith (USA)	–	9	–
Hector Camacho Jr (PR)	–	10	–
Terron Millett (USA)	–	–	1
Randall Bailey (USA)	–	–	3
Emanuel Burton (USA)	22	–	6
Alex Carillo (COL)	–	–	7
Hector Lopez (MEX)	13	–	8
Luis Flores (COL)	–	–	10

LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Cesar Bazan (MEX)	C	–	–
Jean-Baptiste Mendy (FRA)	–	C	–
Shane Mosley (USA)	–	–	C
Billy Schwer (GB)	1	8	12
Steve Johnston (USA)	2	–	7
Daomai Sithkodam (THAI)	3	–	–
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	4	–	–
Genaro Hernandez (USA)	5	–	–
Lovemore Ndou (SA)	6	–	9
Israel Cardona (USA)	7	4	1
Aldo Rios (ARG)	8	9	–
Rick Yoshimura (JAP)	9	10	–
Hiroyuki Sakamoto (JAP)	10	–	–
Vacant	–	1	–
Orzubek Nazarov (JAP)	–	2	–
Edil Martinez (USA)	–	3	10
Alberto Sicurella (ARG)	–	5	–
Phillip Holiday (SA)	–	6	3
Gilbert Serrano (VEN)	–	7	–
Ivan Robinson (USA)	14	12	2
Eduardo Morales (ARG)	–	–	4
Ben Tackie (GHA)	19	–	5
Luis Villalata (PERU)	–	–	6
Sandro Casamonica (ITA)	17	–	8

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Floyd Mayweather (USA)	C	–	–
Takanori Hatakeyama (JAP)	–	C	–
Robert Garcia (USA)	–	–	C
Jesus Chavez (USA)	1	–	–
Goyo Vargas (MEX)	2	–	–
Justin Juuko (UGA)	3	2	5
Sirimongkol Singmanassuk (THAI)	4	–	–
Kengo Nagashima (JAP)	5	9	–
Joel Casamayor (CUB)	6	–	3
Santos Rebolledo (VEN)	7	–	11
Jorge Barrios (ARG)	8	–	–
Angel Manfredy (USA)	9	–	–
Carlos Gerena (PR)	10	8	10
Lakva Sim (MON)	–	1	–
Yong Soo Choi (KOR)	11	3	–
Dennis Holbaek (DEN)	13	4	–
Edson Xuxa Nacimento (BRA)	–	5	–
Yodsanan Nanthachai (THAI)	–	6	–
Antonio Hernandez (MEX)	–	7	–
Genaro Rios (NIC)	–	10	–
Diego Corrales (USA)	–	–	1
Derrick Gainer (USA)	–	–	2
Arnulfo Castillo (USA)	–	–	4
Ramon Ledon (CUBA)	–	–	6
Moises Pedroza (COL)	–	–	7
Jaime Rangel (COL)	–	–	8
Robbie Peden (AUSTRL)	–	–	9

FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Luisito Espinosa (PHIL)	C	–	–
Antonio Cermeno (VEN)	–	C	–
Manuel Medina (MEX)	–	–	C
Cesar Soto (MEX)	1	1	10
Wayne McCullough (IRE)	2	–	–
Juan Manuel Marquez (MEX)	3	12	–
Paul Ingle (GB)	4	5	4
Derrick Gainer (USA)	5	9	–
Pablo Chacon (ARG)	6	7	–
Takeo Imaoka (JAP)	7	–	–
Injin Chi (KOR)	8	–	–
Carlos Rios (ARG)	9	–	–
Dramane Nabaloun (BKF)	10	–	–
Fred Norwood (USA)	–	2	–
Frederic Perez (FRA)	–	3	–
Mbulelo Botile (SA)	–	4	3
Angel Vasquez (PR)	–	6	2
Wilfredo Vazquez (PR)	–	8	–
Eddie Saenz (NIC)	–	10	–
Victor Polo (COL)	–	–	1
Jesus Chavez (USA)	–	–	5
Hector Lizarraga (USA)	–	–	6
Steve Robinson (GB)	21	–	7
Tony Wehbee (AUS)	17	–	8
Bradford Beasley (USA)	–	–	9

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Erik Morales (MEX)	C	–	–
Nestor Garza (MEX)	–	C	–
Vuyani Bungu (SA)	–	–	C
Reynante Jamili (PHIL)	1	11	–
Guty Espadas (MEX)	2	8	–
Michael Brodie (GB)	3	6	4
Ariston Clayton (USA)	4	–	6
Jesus Salud (USA)	5	–	–
Kozo Ishii (JAP)	6	–	–
Sergei Devakov (UKR)	7	–	11
Willie Jorrin (USA)	8	–	–
Juan Carlos Ramirez (MEX)	9	–	–
Angel Chacon (PR)	10	–	–
John Johnson (USA)	–	1	3
Yobert Ortega (VEN)	–	2	–
Richard Carrillo (VEN)	–	3	–
Enrique Sanchez (MEX)	12	4	–
Hector Acero-Sanchez (DR)	–	5	–
Bugiarso (INDO)	–	7	–
Serge Poilblan (FRA)	–	9	–
Choe Chol Su (KOR)	–	10	–
Victor Llerena (COL)	–	–	1
Lehlo Ledwaba (SA)	13	–	2
Danny Romero (USA)	–	–	5
Salim Medjkoune (FRA)	15	–	7
Jason Pires (USA)	–	–	8
Ernesto Gray (COL)	–	–	9
Anell Barotillo (AUSTRL)	21	–	10

BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Joichiro Tatsuyoshi (JAP)	C	–	–
Johnny Tapia (USA)	–	C	–
Tim Austin (USA)	–	–	C
Adan Vargas (MEX)	1	5	5
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	2	–	–
Paul Ayala (USA)	3	3	–
Veerapol Sahaprom (THAI)	4	–	–
Cuauhtemoc Gomez (MEX)	5	8	–
John Michael Johnson (USA)	6	–	–
Hugo Dianzo (MEX)	7	–	–
Gerardo Martinez (MEX)	8	–	–
Sergio Aguila (MEX)	9	–	–
Saul Briceno (MEX)	10	–	–
Sahoiu Sithchai Condo (THAI)	–	1	–
Lukhin CP Gym (THAI)	–	2	–
Nana Konadu (GHA)	14	4	2
Johnny Bredahl (DEN)	20	6	–
Jose Luis Valbuena (VEN)	–	7	–
Kozo Ishii (KOR)	–	9	–
Giovanni Andrade (BRA)	–	10	–
Jose Mendoza (COL)	–	–	1
Jesus Perez (COL)	27	–	3
Adrian Kaspari (INDO)	–	–	4
Albert Resilay (INDO)	–	–	6
Bernardo Mendoza (CHI)	–	–	7
Cesar Singo (ECU)	–	–	8
Juan Sanchez (COL)	–	–	9
Francisco Espita (USA)	–	–	10

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
In Joo Cho (KOR)	C	–	–
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	1	–	12
Luis Bolanos (COL)	2	–	–
Joel Luna Zarate (MEX)	3	9	–
Raffy Montalban (PHIL)	4	–	–
Ratanachai Sor Voraphin (THAI)	5	8	2
Akihigo Nago (JAP)	6	7	–
Yokthai Sithoar (THAI)	7	1	–
Jose Rafael Sosa (ARG)	8	–	–
Pone Saengmorokot (THAI)	9	–	–
Keiji Yamaguchi (JAP)	10	–	–
Saen Sow Ploenchit (THAI)	–	2	–
Satoshi Iida (JAP)	–	3	–
Julio Gamboa (NIC)	–	4	7
Dario Azuaga (PAR)	–	5	–
Felix Machado (VEN)	–	6	11
Evangelo Perez (PAN)	–	10	9
Mark Johnson (USA)	–	–	1
Eric Morel (USA)	12	–	3
Pedro Pena (USA)	22	–	4
Ernesto Briceno (VEN)	–	–	5
Libaniel Alvarez (COL)	–	–	6
Ubadel Soto (COL)	–	–	8
Julio Gamboa (NIC)	–	–	10

FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Manny Pacquiao (PHIL)	C	–	–
Hugo Soto (ARG)	–	C	–
Vacant	–	–	C
Gabriel Mira (MEX)	1	–	–
Chatchai Sasakul (THAI)	2	–	–
David Guerault (FRA)	3	5	1
Alex Ali Baba (GHA)	4	–	–
Oscar Arciniega (MEX)	5	–	–
Alejandro Montiel (MEX)	6	7	–
Alexander Mahmutov (RUS)	7	–	–
Mike Trejo (USA)	8	8	7
Raul Juarez (MEX)	9	–	–
Damaen Kelly (IRE)	10	–	–
Leo Gamez (VEN)	–	1	–
Jose Bonilla (VEN)	–	2	–
Denkaosaen Kaowitch (THAI)	–	3	–
Gilberto Gonzalez (VEN)	–	4	–
Jesper Jensen (DEN)	–	6	–
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	9	–
Setsuo Kobayashi (JAP)	–	10	–
Irene Pacheco (COL)	–	–	2
Ferid Ben Jeddou (TUN)	–	–	3
Yodchingchai Sornthong (THAI)	–	–	4
Yuri Arbachakov (RUS)	–	–	5
Manuel Herrera (USA)	–	–	6
Pedro Alcazar (PAN)	–	–	8
Luis Cox (PER)	–	–	9
Angel Priolo (COL)	–	–	10

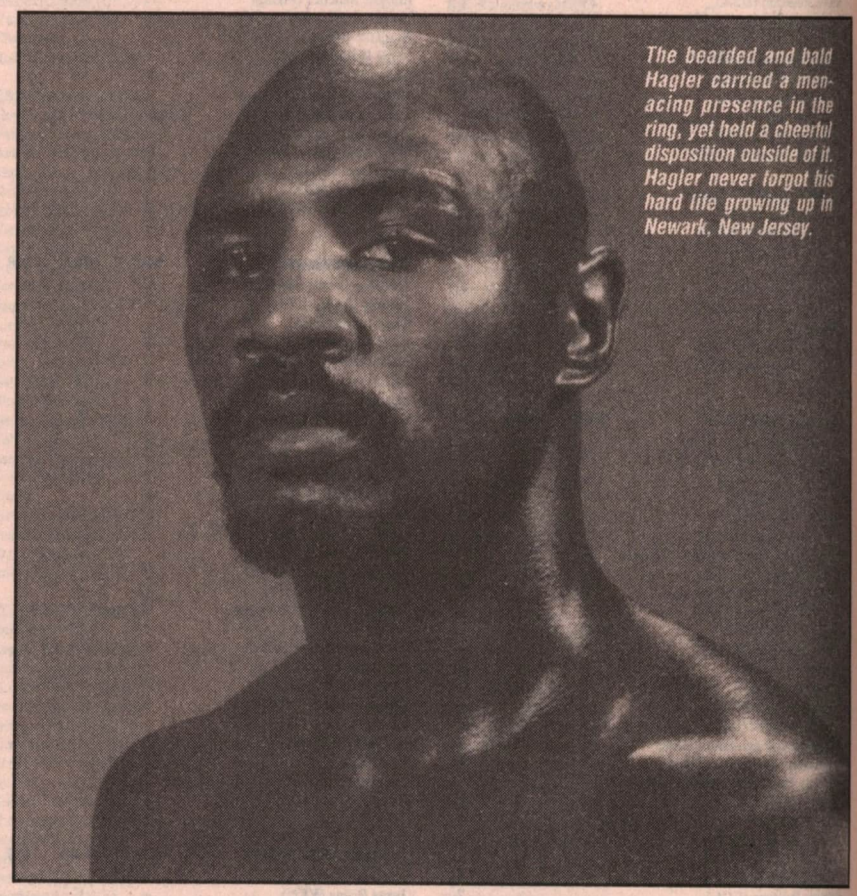
JR. FLYWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Saman Sorjaturong (THAI)	C	–	–
Pichitnoi C. Siriwat (THAI)	–	C	–
Will Grigsby (USA)	–	–	C
Yosam Choi (KOR)	1	7	–
Joma Gamboa (PHIL)	2	1	1
Rosendo Alvarez (NIC)	3	2	2
Oscar Andrade (MEX)	4	4	11
Phanieng Sasiprabha (THAI)	5	–	–
Edgar Cardenas (MEX)	6	–	–
Gabriel Munoz (MEX)	7	–	–
Ladislao Vazquez (MEX)	8	–	–
Hidenobu Honda (JAP)	9	5	–
Shiro Yahiro (JAP)	10	–	–
Mednogn 3K Battery (THAI)	18	3	12
Panieng Pontarat (THAI)	–	6	–
Pongsaklek Nakornton (THAI)	–	8	–
Nelson Dieppa (DR)	22	9	10
Jake Matlala (SA)	19	10	–
Pedro Rodriguez (COL)	–	–	3
Gill Ikeda (JAP)	–	–	4
Anis Roga (INDO)	–	–	5
Ratanapol Sor Vorapin (THAI)	–	–	6
Asdrubal Velasquez (COL)	–	–	7
Carlos Murillo (PAN)	–	–	8
Manuel Jesus Herrera (DR)	12	–	9

STRAWWEIGHTS	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	C	C	–
Zolani Petelo (SA)	–	–	C
Jose Antonio Aguirre (MEX)	1	9	–
Andy Tabanas (PHIL)	2	–	2
Daniel Reyes (COL)	3	12	3
Yasuo Tokimitsu (JAP)	4	–	–
Luis Lazarte (ARG)	5	–	1
Satoru Abe (JAP)	6	3	–
Ratanapol Sow Voraphin (THAI)	7	–	–
Myung Sup Park (KOR)	8	–	–
Jun Arlos (PHIL)	9	–	–
Rocky Palma (JAP)	10	–	8
Vacant	–	1	–
Rocky Lin (JAP)	–	2	–
Jose Garcia (COL)	–	4	6
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	–	5	–
Noel Arumbulet (VEN)	–	6	–
Ronnie Magramo (PHIL)	–	7	–
Randy Mangubat (PHIL)	–	8	–
Keitaro Hoshino (JAP)	26	10	–
Eric Jamili (PHIL)	–	–	4
Mickey Cantwell (GB)	–	–	5
Faisol Akbar (INDO)	–	–	7
Jose Laureano (PR)	–	–	9
Mongol Chareon (THAI)	–	–	10

CLASSIC

MARVIN HAGLER:

A Measure Of The Man Who Takes The Measure Of Most He Meets



The bearded and bald Hagler carried a menacing presence in the ring, yet held a cheerful disposition outside of it. Hagler never forgot his hard life growing up in Newark, New Jersey.

By George Kimball

(Editor's note: This is a condensed version)

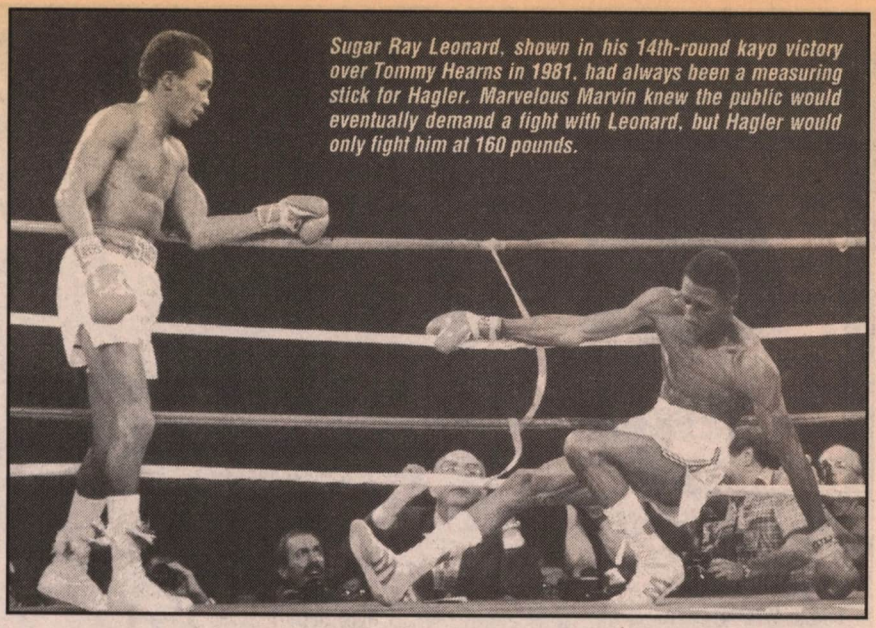
Marvelous Marvin Hagler, middleweight champion of the whole world, husband and father, dispenser of autographs, and kisser of babies, was the designated victim of a roast for the benefit of the New England B'nai B'rith last month. Despite the presence of some of the wittiest minds around, hardly any of the roasters could, even in jest, think of anything bad to say about him—unless, of course, you count the wag who told the assemblage that Caveman Lee had been invited, but, at the last moment, canceled out, because the last time the honored guest and Lee had gotten

From THE RING, May 1982

together, "They almost had a fight." In the ring, Hagler, bearded and bald, assumes a decidedly Mephistophelean cast that is further enhanced when he laces on a pair of gloves and glowers at an opponent. Count the opponent out and take off the gloves, and you discover a man with a cheerful disposition, an affable smile—but still a shaved head. He is a simple, yet complex, man who knows what he wants, and remembers how he got it.

When his hometown of Brockton, Massachusetts, held its centennial celebration last summer, Hagler was the parade's Grand Marshal. He shared the reviewing stand dais with Governor Edward King, U.S. Senators Kennedy and Tsongas, and Rocky Marciano's mother. Only last month, he was invited to be the color commentator on the inaugural *Fight Of The Month* broadcast. It has been a long, hard road, but he is recognized on the streets wherever he goes. He carries a pocketful of postcard-sized pictures of himself, which he cheerfully signs upon request. There was a State Department-sponsored tour to the Caribbean this winter. And the Superstars ... and on and on ...

Hagler may be a successful and respected—as well as affluent—citizen of Brockton, but he is also a child of the Newark ghetto, and retains that measure of street savvy and mistrust that never leaves you. His tastes are simple, almost plebeian. After knocking out Lee in March, he appeared at the postfight press conference wearing a conservative three-piece suit. He pours half a bottle of ketchup on a broiled filet of sole. He is now a full-fledged corporate entity, but before he won the title, he openly spoke of hoping to make enough money out of boxing for him and his wife Bertha to open a laundromat.



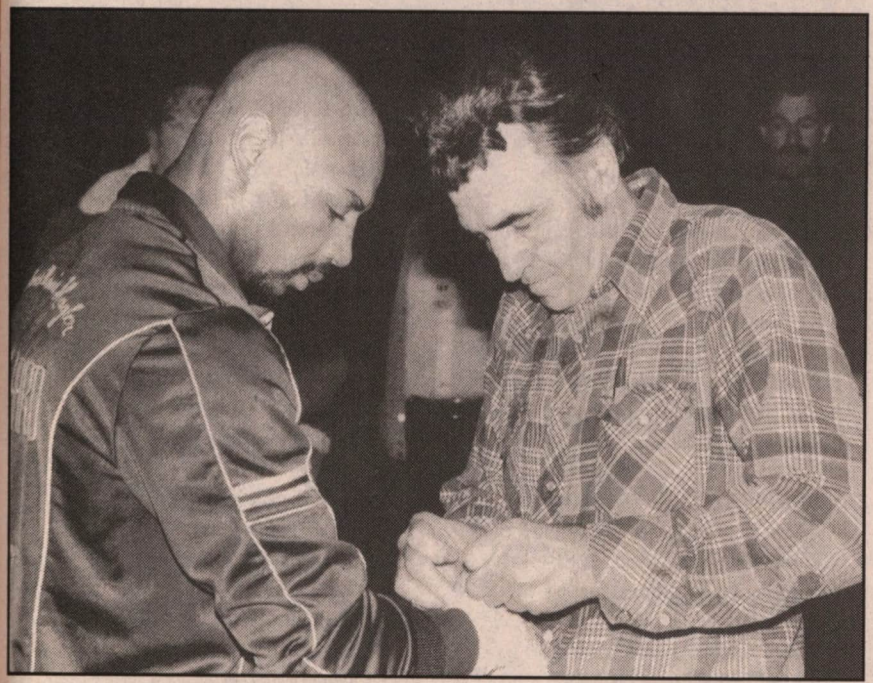
Sugar Ray Leonard, shown in his 14th-round kayo victory over Tommy Hearns in 1981, had always been a measuring stick for Hagler. Marvelous Marvin knew the public would eventually demand a fight with Leonard, but Hagler would only fight him at 160 pounds.

Now, in a room full of boxing champions, he can comfortably share a dais with Ray Leonard and feel that they are equals—which, by any measure, save the financial yardstick, they are. The way to rectify this situation, plainly, would be for them to meet in the ring. Marvelous Marvin would like that, and feels that "The public will eventually demand it." Leonard concurs, but defers to his attorney, Mike Trainer, who explains that Leonard will be happy to meet Hagler, but not at 160 pounds—which, in turn, means no fight. Hagler has fought at 160 pounds since his amateur days, and is not about to shed an extra ounce to make more money—not for Ray Leonard and not for anybody else.

There are some things about Marvin Hagler that will never change.

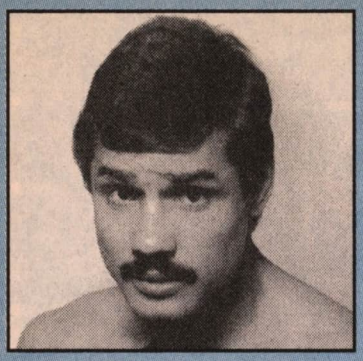
Since the early days of his amateur career—which culminated in a national AAU title in 1973, the same year Leonard lost to Randy Shields—Marvin Hagler has been handled by the Brothers Petronelli, Goody and Pat, who prefer to be described as "co-handlers." In point of fact, Goody, who is a Navy veteran and longtime ring veteran, is more trainer, and Pat, who had a construction business in Brockton, more manager; but the functions are sufficiently interlaced that "co-handler" will suffice.

Steve Wainwright, the third member of the trio, is a partner in the prestigious law firm of Wainwright, Wainwright, Wainwright, Wainwright, and Wainwright. Known as "The Barrister," he is the third man in the corner during bouts involving Petronelli fighters, and handles the legal and financial affairs of the champion. He shaved his head, a la Marvin, when Hagler won the title in England two years ago, and has avoided the wet look ever since. He plays jazz flute and is given, often after too many tequilas, to impressing young ladies



Goody Petronelli, taping Hagler's hands, handled Hagler along with his brother Pat since Marvelous Marvin's amateur days in the early-1970s. Pat acted more as Hagler's manager, while Goody, a longtime veteran of the fight game, served primarily as his trainer.

THE RING RATINGS, May 1982



Alexis Arguello

HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Larry Holmes, Easton, PA
1. **Mike Weaver**, Los Angeles, CA
2. **Michael Dokes**, Akron, OH
3. **Gerry Cooney**, Huntington, NY
4. **Greg Page**, Louisville, KY
5. **Gerrie Coetzee**, South Africa
6. **Trevor Berbick**, Halifax, Canada
7. **James (Quick) Tillis**, Chicago, IL
8. **Randall (Tex) Cobb**, Philadelphia, PA
9. **Leon Spinks**, St. Louis, MO
10. **Renaldo Snipes**, Yonkers, NY

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Dwight Braxton, Camden, NJ
1. **Michael Spinks**, St. Louis, MO
2. **Matthew Saad Muhammad**, Philadelphia, PA
3. **Eddie Mustafa Muhammad**, Brooklyn, NY
4. **Carlos DeLeon**, Puerto Rico
5. **Murray Sutherland**, Bay City, MI
6. **Marvin Camel**, Missoula, MT
7. **Jerry Martin**, Philadelphia, PA
8. **Jerry Celestine**, New Orleans, LA
9. **James Scott**, Rahway, NJ
10. **Marvin Johnson**, Indianapolis, IN

MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Marvin Hagler, Brockton, MA
1. **Tony Sibson**, England
2. **Frank Fletcher**, Philadelphia, PA
3. **Mustafa Hamsho**, Syria
4. **Dwight Davison**, Detroit, MI
5. **Fulgencio Obelmejias**, Venezuela
6. **Ray Seales**, Tacoma, WA
7. **Thomas Hearns**, Detroit, MI
8. **Wilford Scypion**, New York, NY
9. **Bernard Mays**, Detroit, MI
10. **Vinnie Curto**, Boston, MA

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS
World Champ: Ray Leonard, Palmer Park, MD
1. **Wilfred Benitez**, Puerto Rico
2. **Ayub Kalule**, Uganda
3. **Tony Ayala Jr.**, San Antonio, TX
4. **Maurice Hope**, England
5. **Carlos Herrera**, Argentina
6. **Charlie Weir**, South Africa
7. **Roberto Duran**, Panama
8. **Gary Guiden**, Indianapolis, IN
9. **Clint Jackson**, Nashville, TN
10. **Davey Moore**, New York, NY

WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Ray Leonard, Palmer Park, MD
1. **Thomas Hearns**, Detroit, MI
2. **Roger Stafford**, Philadelphia, PA
3. **Pipino Cuevas**, Mexico
4. **Milton McCrory**, Detroit, MI
5. **Roberto Duran**, Panama
6. **Colin Jones**, England
7. **Bobby Joe Young**, Steubenville, OH
8. **Donald Curry**, Fort Worth, TX
9. **Randy Shields**, N. Hollywood, CA
10. **Marlon Starling**, Hartford, CT

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Aaron Pryor, Cincinnati, OH
1. **Saoul Mamby**, New York, NY
2. **Jo Kimpuani**, France
3. **Dujuan Johnson**, Detroit, MI
4. **Johnny Bumphus**, Nashville, TN
5. **Miguel Montilla**, Dominican Republic
6. **Monroe Brooks**, Los Angeles, CA
7. **Leroy Haley**, Las Vegas, NV
8. **Steve Hearon**, Houston, TX
9. **Willie Rodriguez**, Allentown, PA
10. **Lennox Blackmore**, Guyana

LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Alexis Arguello, Nicaragua
1. **Aaron Pryor**, Cincinnati, OH
2. **Andrew Ganigan**, Honolulu, HI
3. **Art Frias**, Los Angeles, CA
4. **Sean O'Grady**, Oklahoma City, OK
5. **Howard Davis Jr.**, Glen Cove, NY
6. **Ray Mancini**, Youngstown, OH
7. **Hilmer Kenty**, Detroit, MI
8. **Rodolfo (Gato) Gonzalez**, Mexico
9. **Gonzallo Montellano**, Los Angeles, CA
10. **Claude Noel**, Trinidad

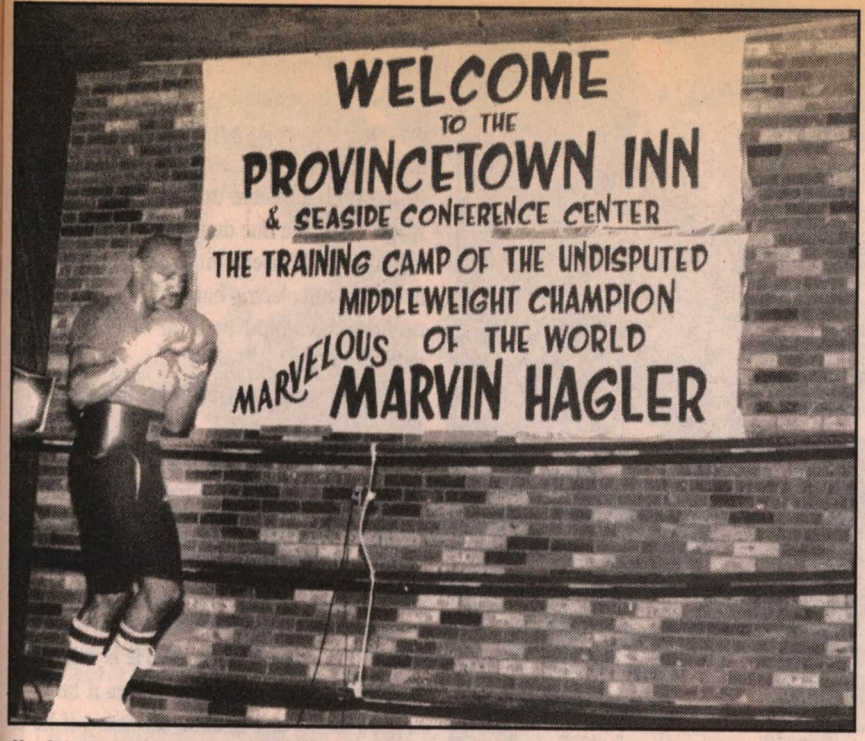
JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS
World Champ: Samuel Serrano, Puerto Rico
1. **Rolando Navarrete**, Honolulu, HI
2. **Cornelius Boza-Edwards**, England
3. **Edwin Rosario**, Puerto Rico
4. **Rafael (Bazooka) Limon**, Mexico
5. **Bobby Chacon**, Pacoima, CA
6. **John Verderosa**, Staten Island, NY
7. **Yasutsune Uehara**, Japan
8. **Johnny Sato**, Stockton, CA
9. **Ildelfonso Bethelmy**, Venezuela
10. **Carlos Pinango**, Venezuela

FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Salvador Sanchez, Mexico
1. **Eusebio Pedroza**, Panama
2. **Wilfredo Gomez**, Puerto Rico
3. **Juan LaPorte**, New York, NY
4. **Rocky Lockridge**, Paterson, NJ
5. **Ruben Castillo**, Bakersfield, NJ
6. **Mario Miranda**, Colombia
7. **Pat Cowdell**, England
8. **Patrick Ford**, Guyana
9. **Roberto Rubaldino**, Mexico
10. **Paul Ferrari**, Australia

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS
World Champ: Wilfredo Gomez, Puerto Rico
1. **Sergio Palma**, Argentina
2. **Mike Ayala**, New York, NY
3. **Jamie Garza**, Los Angeles, CA
4. **Leo Cruz**, Dominican Republic
5. **Ricardo Cardona**, Colombia
6. **Juan (Kid) Meza**, Los Angeles, CA
7. **Lupe Pintor**, Mexico
8. **Roberto Rubaldino**, Mexico
9. **Soon-Hyun Chung**, Korea
10. **Nicky Perez**, Tucson, AZ

BANTAMWEIGHTS
World Champ: Jeff Chandler, Philadelphia, PA
1. **Lupe Pintor**, Mexico
2. **Chul-Ho Kim**, Korea
3. **Kiko Bejines**, Mexico
4. **Albert Davila**, Los Angeles, CA
5. **Oscar Muniz**, Los Angeles, CA
6. **Johnny Carter**, Philadelphia, PA
7. **Ejiro Murata**, Japan
8. **Jose R. Narvaez**, Argentina
9. **Rafael Orono**, Venezuela
10. **Freddie Jackson**, Houston, TX

FLYWEIGHTS
World Champ: Prudencio Cardona, Colombia
1. **Juan Herrera**, Mexico
2. **Amado Ursua**, Mexico
3. **Hilario Zapata**, Panama
4. **Katsuo Tokashiki**, Japan
5. **Antonio Avelar**, Mexico
6. **Hwan Jin Kim**, Korea
7. **Rafael Pedroza**, Panama
8. **Gustavo Ballas**, Argentina
9. **Candido Tellez**, Mexico
10. **Luis Ibarra**, Panama



Hagler was a creature of habit. During training for a fight, he often isolated himself at the Provincetown Inn, located at the tip of Cape Cod. It meant running in frigid temperatures on sand dunes. Hagler liked to refer to this routine as "putting myself in jail."

by telling them about the giraffe farms he owns in Africa.

His notion of packaging Hagler for media consumption goes like this:

"What was Gorgeous George's last name?"

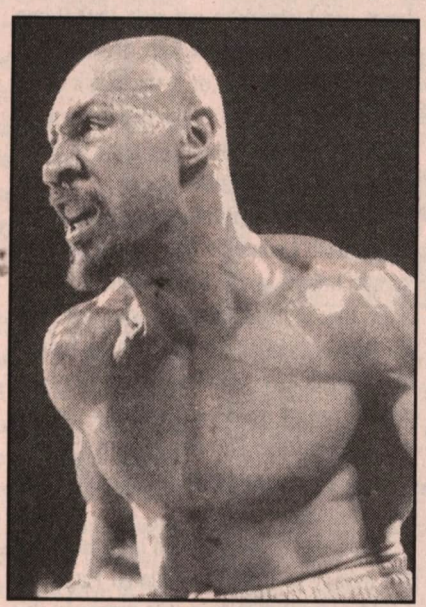
"I haven't a clue ..."

"Precisely. So why can't he just be plain Marvelous Marvin?"

But somehow, not to be outnumbered amongst those in his entourage, is his wife Bertha, who is most emphatically not part of the entourage. She is, instead, the centerpiece of his other life; and orderly person that he is, Marvin Hagler likes to keep things straight. The various rituals have become so finely honed that they verge on superstition, and one tenet of the champion's credo holds that he does not lay eyes on Bertha Hagler from the day he goes into training until after the fight.

The night before the Alan Minter fight in London, Bertha herself nearly violated this quarantine. After dinner and a few spots of grog with Marvin's mother and stepfather, she dropped by to say hello to her long-lost husband. This seemingly innocent move started a panic in the camp, which intercepted her at the front door of Bailey's Hotel. Hagler's handlers will go to great lengths to protect their charge.

The blessed event was to occur midway through the training period. The whole camp had immersed itself in a "Think Pink" campaign, in hopes of a girl. Marvin, who has one son, Champ, 5, from his boyhood days in Newark by Bertha, wanted a girl so badly he promised his wife she could choose the name. If it was a boy, Bertha wanted to call him Derek. Hagler immediately rejected this on the grounds that Derek was a sissy name. "What do you want to name him then?" asked the wife. "I don't know," replied Marvin, "but it ain't gonna be Derek. We'll just put 'Baby Boy Hagler' and decide later."



Hagler's regimented lifestyle during training often made him surly before a fight. He would spit on the carpet, and had a quick-trigger temper.

"*Baby Boy Hagler*," fumed Pat Petronelli. "What the hell kind of name is that for the son of a world champion?"

Bertha Hagler went into labor on the morning of February 17. Two days before, Mickey Goodwin had pulled out of the fight and been replaced by Lee. This, in turn, had provided an excuse to shift the venue—political, labor, and economic considerations had rendered San Remo unattractive—and, less than three weeks before the fight, Bob Arum was shopping around for a new site. Either of these circumstances would normally be enough to upset Hagler's delicately honed countdown, but now, with the added aggravation, he was pacing the floor of his suite in Provincetown like a caged tiger.

The call came at mid-morning. Charelle Monique Hagler had checked into the world. It was raining outside, the champ had already missed his morning run, and he abruptly decided to abandon the afternoon workout as well. "Say, Pat," he brightened, "what say we let this be Sunday and run up to Brockton to see the mama and baby?"

Petronelli, startled, blinked. "Sure, Marv," he smiled. "Whatever you say. Let's go."

Marvin Hagler is a creature of habit. He is also unpredictable.

Four to six weeks before each fight, Hagler checks into his own version of Devil's Island, a small suite of rooms in the rambling Provincetown Inn on the tip of the last curl of Cape Cod, where he proceeds to shut himself off from the outside world. It is all business. He works out at six each evening in a makeshift gymnasium and ring installed beside the hotel's indoor pool. Early each morning he does his roadwork across the desolate Cape Cod dunes, an exercise in utter masochism during the winter months when you keep expecting a polar bear to pop up around the next turn. When Marvin Hagler says he "puts himself in jail," he means it.

Since achieving his current prominence, Hagler has had numerous offers to train elsewhere. More convenience, better facilities, creature comforts for the entourage. But Brook Evans, the proprietor of the Inn, came to Hagler with the offer of his facility years ago, when nobody was willing to offer him much of anything. Just as other managers and promoters have dangled promises of

Some speculated Hagler lacked drawing power in Boston, but lackluster opponents like washed-up Vito Antuofermo did not help Hagler's cause, either. Since winning the middleweight title in 1980, Hagler defended twice in the Boston Garden, failing to attract more than 10,000 fans each time.

wealth and fame before his eyes, he has steadfastly stuck with the people who got him here, thank you, and in his view, that means the Provincetown Inn, too. For Marvin Hagler is loyal. Very loyal.

Hagler has not only made more money than he ever dreamed of, he is also commanding more money than any middleweight before him—his $1-million purse for the Mustafa Hamsho fight representing an all-time record for the division. He has been well-packaged financially, and it would not be far out of line to say that he has more money than he will ever need. Yet, in comparison to Ray Leonard, Hagler's earnings pale. And, taken as a yardstick of his own success, this offends him.

It has also served as ammunition for the critics on both sides of the fence. On the one hand, they claim he lacks Leonard's charisma, to wit, that he is colorless; on the other, they maintain that his own color—it happens to be a rich chocolate-brown, in a city where children of that hue frequently get rocks thrown at them—has undercut his drawing power in his own hometown. To back up their point, they note that since winning the title, Hagler has defended twice in the Boston Garden, neither time drawing more than 10,000 fans.

What the latter argument does not take into consideration is that the title defenses in question were against the utterly anonymous Fulgencio Obelmejias and a washed-up Vito Autuofermo—who, in his last three fights, had been bloodied up twice in a pair of losses to Alan Minter and been knocked down twice by the immortal Mauricio Aldano.

"I don't think color has much to do with it," maintains Rip Valenti, the 82-year-old promoter who staged Hagler's Boston shows—and who once put over 15,000 into the Garden for a non-title fight between Lou Brouillard and Al McCoy at the height of the Depression. "Fightin' bums like those two, DeMarco, Pender, Marciano, none of them would have filled the place either."

Those who maintain that Hagler will never match Leonard's flamboyant aura are correct. Indeed, given his absolute devotion to the task at hand, Hagler—who was himself then in training for the Hamsho fight—was completely appalled when Leonard bugged out of his Vegas training camp a week before the Thomas Hearns fight in order to appear on a national late-night talk show.

"How can he do that with his title and all that money at stake?" wondered Hagler. It would not occur to him that precisely this sort of self-huckstering might be the reason Leonard's earnings were so vast.

And those who claim that Hagler's insistence on relying on his own inner circle—"Those two bricklayers from Brockton and the crazy lawyer with the shaved head"—has held him back financially could be right, too. It is entirely possible that had Hagler somewhere along the line dumped his own people and aligned himself with some fast-talking huckster with electric hair and powerful connections, he would be a far wealthier man today.

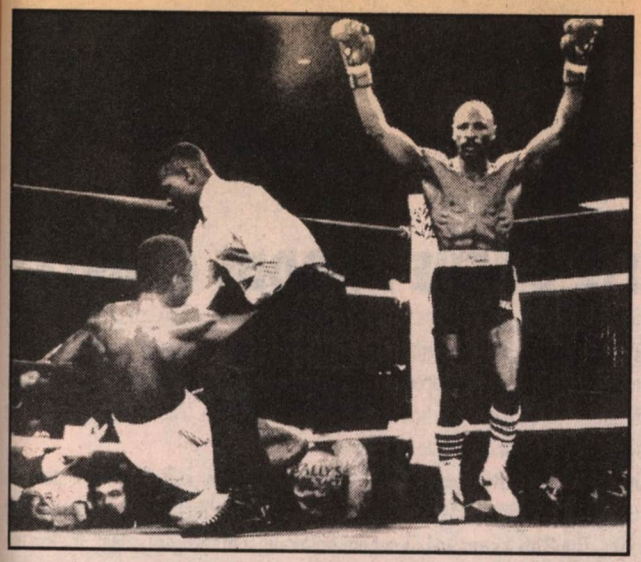
But he would not be Marvelous Marvin Hagler.

The public Marvin Hagler all but disappears in the days immediately preceding a fight. Transported to the site, the champion spins a cocoon about himself and withdraws inside.

This is a Hagler even visitors to the Provincetown gym don't see. He is mean and surly. He speaks in monosyllables if he is in a good mood, and in cold, icy stares if he is not. He spits on the carpet. He barely tolerates the presence of small children. The slightest mishap is apt to send him into a tantrum, if not a rage, as the matter at hand dominates his every thought. He even grows surly with his inner circle.

"I'd get worried if he was any other way," confesses Pat Petronelli, acknowledging the champion's prefight nastiness.

The hallmark of Hagler's virtuosity is his adaptability. He is, unlike many great fighters, highly versatile. Searching for comparisons, one always winds up with Leonard. He can box, he can punch, he can brawl, he can dance—left or right-handed. He has a facility for snapping hooks and jabs at the point of impact, and can rip apart an opponent's face like a skilled surgeon (Minter; Autuofermo II). He can conduct a clinic in the art of boxing that leaves an opponent looking like a humiliated pupil (Obelmejias). He can swarm all over a foe like some sort of deranged and sadistic maniac, producing the very real impression that, uninterrupted, he just might kill the guy (Loucif Hamani). He can go to the trenches and brawl head-to-head with the street mugger (Autuofermo I). Given an intense dislike for an opponent, he can carry him all night, punishing him severely without sacrificing a single round (Hamsho). Or he can go out at the bell and simply devastate an opponent by pounding him into submission before half a round has elapsed (Ray Seales; Lee).



With Hearns seated at ringside, Hagler made quick and easy work of Bill "Caveman" Lee, almost tearing his head off with a right hand in a first-round knockout in Atlantic City. "I didn't want to give Tommy too much tape to look at," Hagler joked afterward.

It was over half a minute into the fight before Hagler threw a punch against Lee, but it was a thing of beauty. It started off as a straight jab, but in mid-punch Hagler saw the opening, and wound up hitting Caveman with a right hand that almost tore his head off. He threw 17 more punches in the 67-second fight, and every one of them landed. But it was the very first that rocked Lee for good.

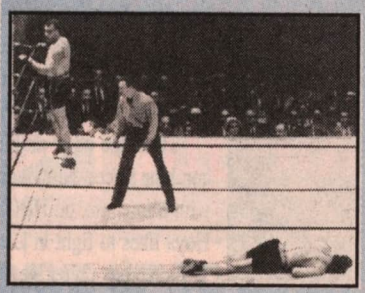
"I've always said," conceded Emanuel Steward, "that Marvin's best punch was his right hand." (What else was Steward supposed to say?)

If boxing politics separated Marvin Hagler from a title shot for, literally, years after it was due, so do they continue to wreak havoc with the present course of his career. As the undisputed champion, he is continually beset by the contradictory, obtuse, and self-serving rules of both the WBA and the WBC. Ironically, the fact that he is the undisputed champion—meaning that he has to pay obedience to both ruling bodies—has proved something of a hindrance, because he has to juggle both crowns while simultaneously trying to push his own career in the direction of the big-money fight. Negotiating with a Leonard or a Hearns or a Wilfred Benitez, for example, becomes increasingly complicated when the WBA is breathing down your neck, threatening to strip you unless you sign to fight someone named Fulgencio Obelmejias, known as "Fully Obel" for short, but not for long.

It could well be, then, that at some point Hagler could decide that his claim to the undisputed championship is so secure that he is, in effect, bigger than both of them, and set out on his own course, confident that no attempt to replace him as champion would be taken seriously, anywhere. As the Lee fight demonstrated, he is head and shoulders above the rest of the division—Caveman was ranked in the top 10 by both WBs—and Hagler against virtually anyone is going to be labeled a gross mismatch.

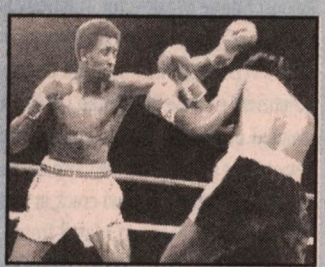
"If you're going to be the best," says Hagler, "you have to fight the best." And Marvin Hagler, for one, is perfectly willing to let the public decide who that might be, WBA and WBC notwithstanding—and no opponent left standing. ■

The Cover: THE RING broached the topic of whether or not lefthanded fighters were an endangered species, with Marvin Hagler, one of the greatest southpaws ever, adorning the cover. Natural southpaws were usually switched to a conventional stance because they were thought to be too difficult to match.



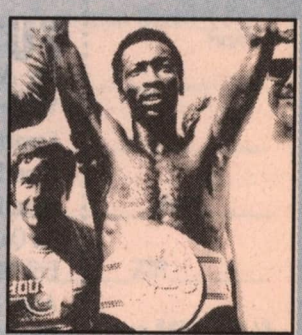
Setting The Record Straight: Former heavyweight champion Jack Sharkey spoke about losing the title to Italian giant Primo Carnera by sixth-round knockout. Sharkey maintained that he never "threw" that fight, and that Carnera had a stiff jab that was better than most boxing experts gave him credit for.

Middle Blasts From Past: THE RING displayed a pictorial feature on great middleweight bouts of the past, including Sugar Ray Robinson regaining the title with a 10th-round knockout of Englishman Randy Turpin (pictured). Also included is the first of Robinson's six classic confrontations with Jake LaMotta.



Moving Up: Thomas Hearns' second fight as a junior middleweight was a success. "The Hit Man" needed only 108 seconds to knock out Mexico's Marcos Geraldo. Two booming rights and a left hook spelled the end for Geraldo.

Fighter Of The Month: Prudencio Cardona won the WBC flyweight title with a stunning first-round knockout of champion Antonio Avelar of Mexico. Cardona, from Colombia, caught Avelar with a right, then a quick one-two, sending him to the canvas at 1:58 of the round.



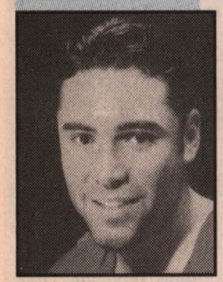
LOOKING AHEAD

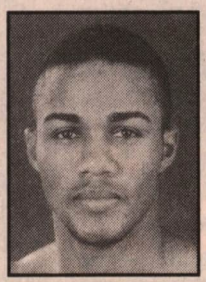
By Eric Raskin

WILL OSCAR AND FELIX BE THE AT-ODDS COUPLE?

It's the fight everybody is asking for, as evidenced by the results of THE RING Readers' Poll, where 41.2 percent of the fans who responded chose **Oscar De La Hoya** vs. **Felix Trinidad** as the number-one fight on their wish list. And the road to such a put-it-all-on-the-line meeting between the two undefeated welter champs would now appear, on the surface, to be clear. De La Hoya defeated **Ike Quartey**. Trinidad beat **Pernell Whitaker**. Both fights scored big at the box office and on television. The time is right ... for the fans. But convincing the promoters to make the fight happen is another issue altogether.

"I really don't think the fight's going to happen this year," said HBO Sports Senior Vice President **Lou DiBella**, whose network broadcast both De La Hoya-Quartey and Trinidad-Whitaker. "**Don King** said he feels the fight should be a 50-50 split in terms of the purses. But **Bob Arum** and Oscar are not doing a 50-50 parity deal. If Don and Trinidad really want parity, they may end up doing Trinidad-**James Page** first, and then Felix could have two belts, which would be a real bargaining chip."





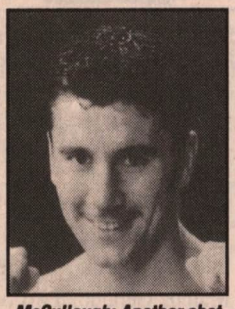
Oscar vs. Tito: The match fans want the most

There are other problems as well, beyond simple money issues. King and Arum are rivals who rarely combine forces. King works primarily with Showtime (though he did put Trinidad, who's not under contract with Showtime, on HBO to secure the fight with Whitaker), while De La Hoya is an HBO fighter. De La Hoya likes to fight in Las Vegas, where the judges have always given him the benefit of the doubt, while Trinidad may prefer New York City and its highly Puerto Rican population.

And both men have at least one fight to take care of first. Though the deal wasn't quite finalized at press time, Arum and WBC champ De La Hoya were working on a May 22 date at the new Mandalay Bay Casino in Vegas to defend against **Oba Carr** on HBO. Meanwhile, Trinidad has a mandatory defense of the IBF title upcoming against **Vincent Pettway**, sometime over the summer, perhaps in Puerto Rico. Then De La Hoya is scheduled for a pay-per-view bout in September.

"The only guys who are really big enough right now for that September pay-per-view with Oscar would be Trinidad, and a rematch with Quartey," DiBella said. "Our first choice is Trinidad as soon as possible. That's the fight sitting there looking Oscar in the eye."

LISTEN UP



McCullough: Another shot at the 122-pound title

HBO's *Boxing After Dark* looks to retain its title as the home of boxing's most exciting fights by putting a pair of all-action competitors in the ring in Las Vegas on April 17. **Arturo Gatti's** two conquerors in 1998, **Ivan Robinson** and **Angel Manfredy**, will meet in a 10-round lightweight bout that should clinch a title shot for the winner (for Robinson, against **Shane Mosley**, for Manfredy, against **Roberto Garcia**). The official main event on the show, though not as compelling a matchup as the co-feature, is **Floyd Mayweather's** WBC super feather title defense against **Goyo Vargas** ... WBA/WBC light heavyweight champ **Roy Jones** is scheduled for a fight on HBO on May 1, and, much to the disappointment of **Jose Sulaiman**, it doesn't look like it'll be a rematch with **Rick Frazier**. Instead, it should be the long-awaited unification bout with IBF champion **Reggie Johnson** ... Irish junior featherweight **Wayne McCullough** has never quite gotten over his close decision loss to **Daniel Zaragoza** two years ago for the WBC 122-pound title, but he'll finally be getting a second crack at that belt, against the man who beat Zaragoza, **Erik Morales**. The fight will headline a TVKO pay-per-view on May 8 from Las Vegas, with Top Rank hoping that Morales can duplicate the success they had promoting Mexican-American star **Genaro Hernandez** in a number of minor, lower-priced pay-per-views.

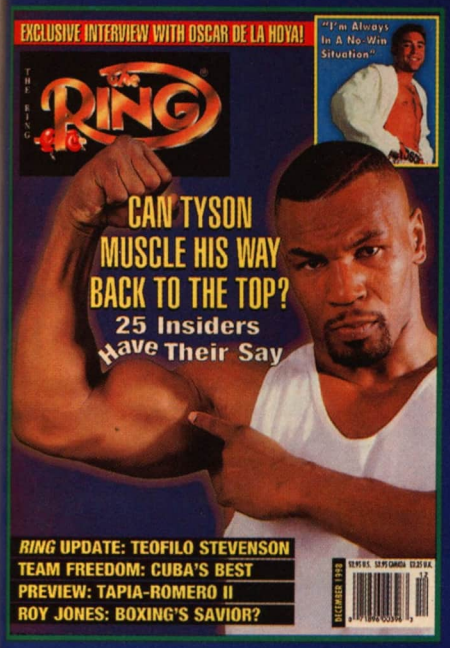
FUTURE FIGHTS

By Art Manteris

VP/Director of Race and Sports Operations Las Vegas Hilton SuperBook

Las Vegas Hilton

Favorite	Underdog	Odds	The Skinny
Oscar De La Hoya	Felix Trinidad	Pick-'em	The best fight in the world
Oscar De La Hoya	Ike Quartey	2-1	Oscar beat him once and can beat him again
Ike Quartey	Pernell Whitaker	7-1	Sweet Pea is no longer among the elite
Erik Morales	Wayne McCullough	6-1	Morales clearly the best at 122 pounds
Angel Manfredy	Ivan Robinson	Pick-'em	Too close to call
Michael Grant	Andrew Golota	2½-1	The public will bet Golota; I like Grant



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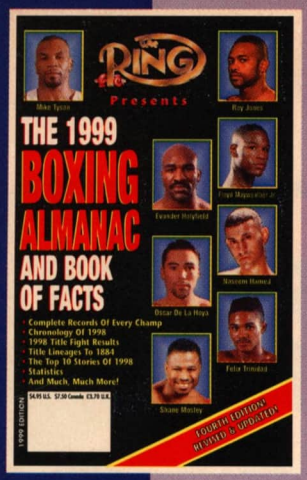

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